Shojo Beat Manga

BABY & Me

Story & Art by

Marimo Ragawa

11

Shojo Beat

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Vol. 11

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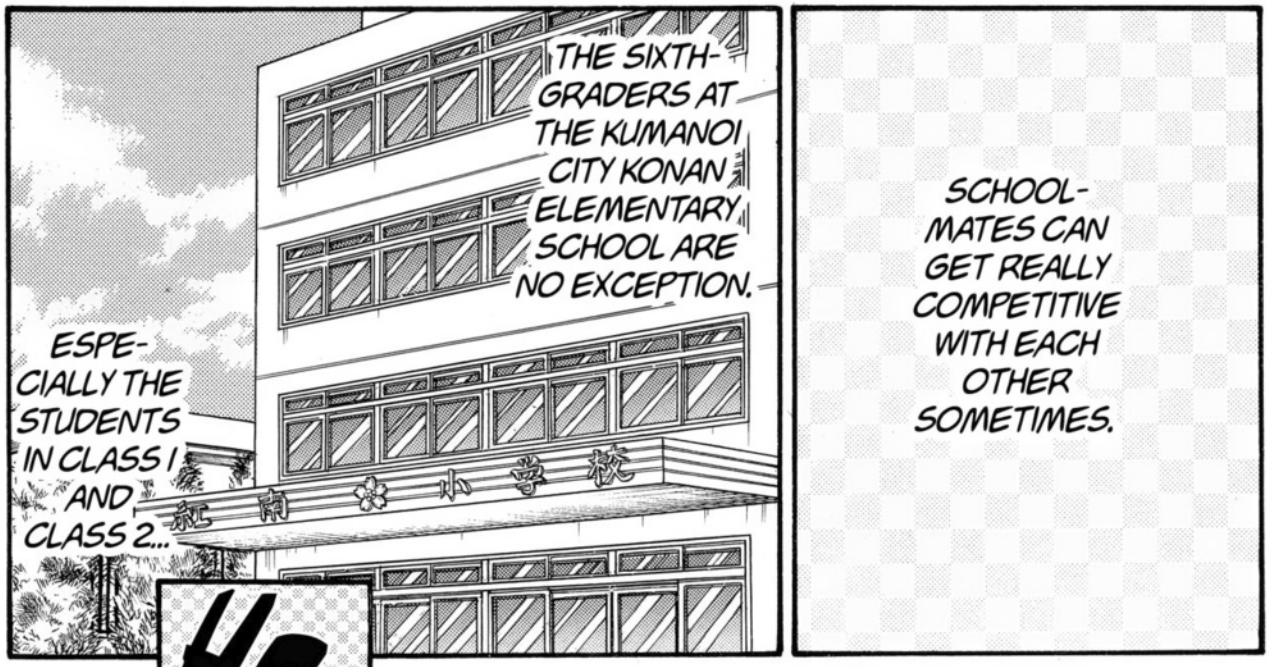
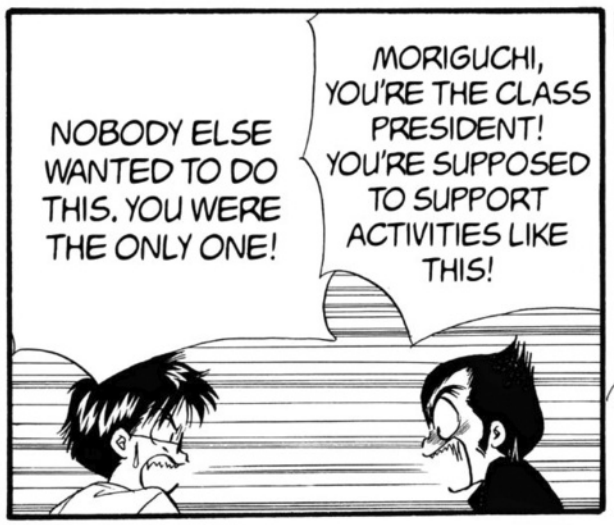
BABY & Me
Chapter 57


THE SIXTH-GRADERS AT THE KUMANOI CITY KONAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ARE NO EXCEPTION.
ESPE-CIALLY THE STUDENTS IN CLASS 1 AND CLASS 2...
紅南小学校
SCHOOL-MATES CAN GET REALLY COMPETITIVE WITH EACH OTHER SOMETIMES.

HEH
HEH...
HEH HEH HEH

SOON THEY SHALL KNOW THE MIGHT OF MITSURU KUMADE!!
THOSE CLASS 2 JERKS!
HUH ?
MY TIME HAS COME!!
HEH HEH HEH
BWA HA HA HA HA
USA
VIP

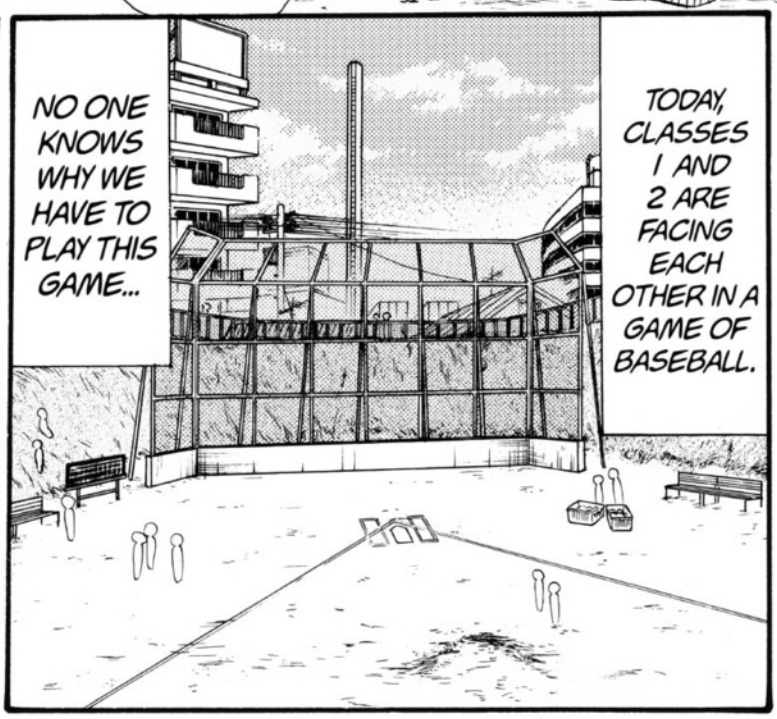

MORIGUCHI, YOU'RE THE CLASS PRESIDENT! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES LIKE THIS!
NOBODY ELSE WANTED TO DO THIS. YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE!

SHUT UP!
BONK
OH...

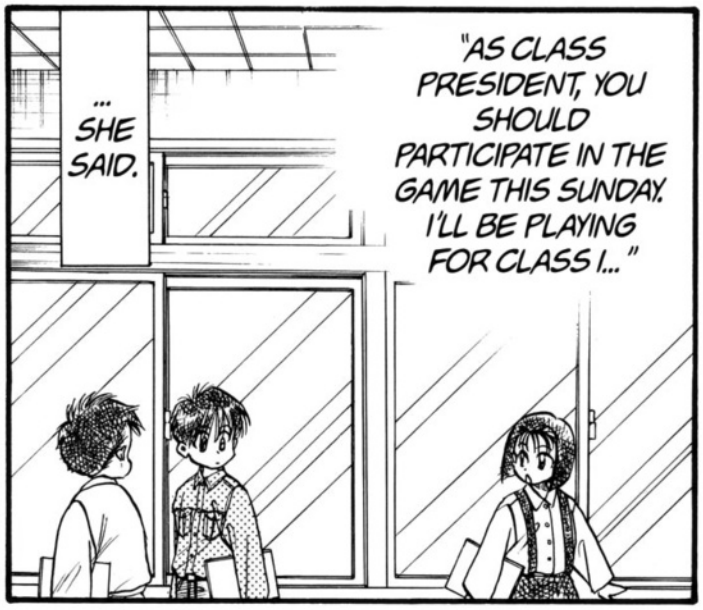
NOBODY EVEN CARES ABOUT THIS STUPID GAME!!
I WISH THEY'D HURRY UP AND START.
BUT THE OTHERS AREN'T HERE YET.
YACK
YACK

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! MY PRECIOUS SUNDAY...
...IS GONNA BE WASTED PLAYING BASE-BALL!!
I HAD TO GET UP EARLY FOR THIS! HOW DARE YOU LAUGH?

...BUT THREE DAYS AGO...
YARIMIZO SAID SOME-THING TO ME...
"ENO-KI..."


TODAY, CLASSES 1 AND 2 ARE FACING EACH OTHER IN A GAME OF BASEBALL.
NO ONE KNOWS WHY WE HAVE TO PLAY THIS GAME...

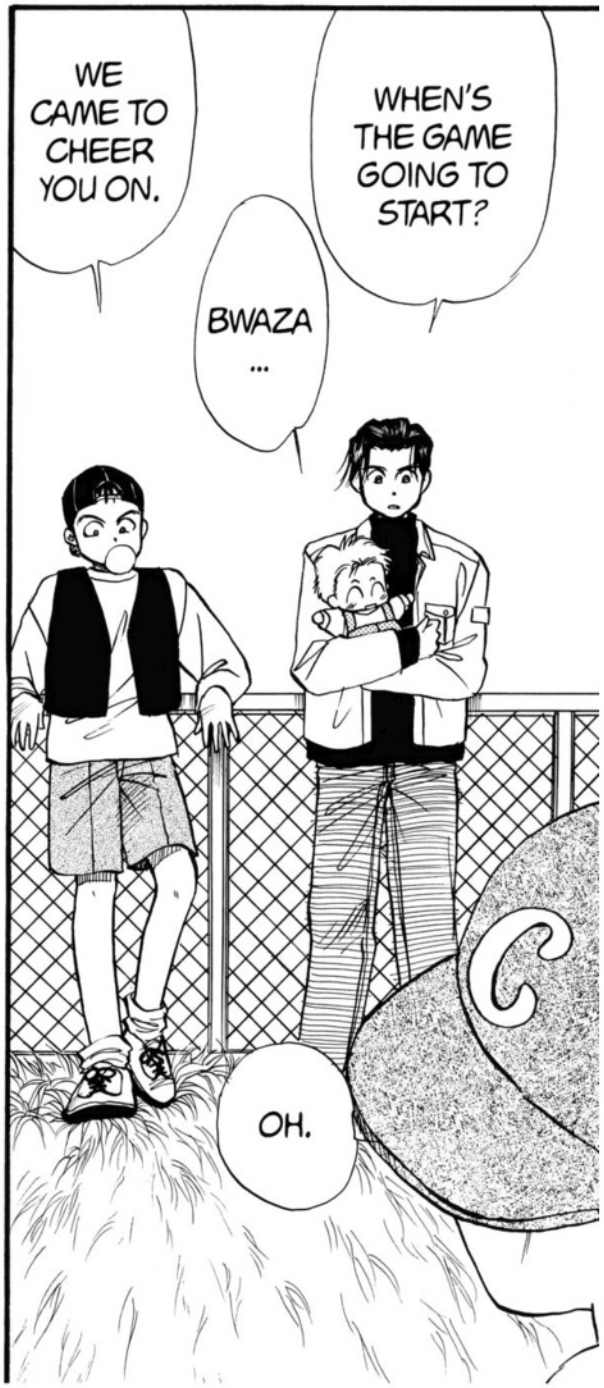
SHE TOLD ME AS SHE PASSED ME IN THE HALL.
WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS? NOT KUMADE'S ...
HE JUST GOT EXCITED ABOUT IT.
HEY, TAKUYA...


... SHE SAID.
"AS CLASS PRESIDENT, YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE GAME THIS SUNDAY. I'LL BE PLAYING FOR CLASS I..."

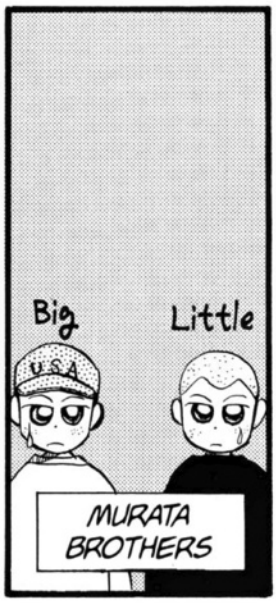
I KNOW THIS IS OUT OF THE BLUE, BUT...

WILL YOU PLEASE BE THE UMPIRES?
PO OF

HUH?
OKAY. WE HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE NOW.
GEEZ, THAT'S CREEPY.
WHERE'D SHE COME FROM?


WE CAME TO CHEER YOU ON.
WHEN'S THE GAME GOING TO START?
BWAZA ...
OH.

brought there forcibly
TSUTOMU HIROSE

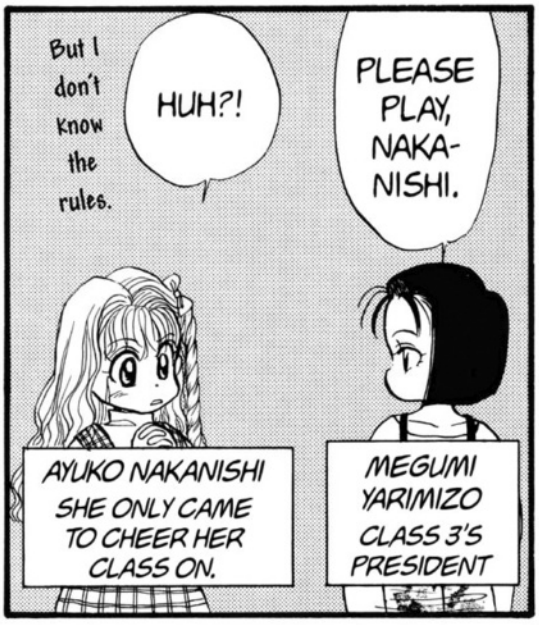

Big
Little
MURATA BROTHERS

HA HA HA HA HA
CLASS 1 TEAM
MITSURU KUMADE

ENOUGH ?

...AT THEIR FACES, YOU CAN TELL THAT TEAM ONE IS WEAK.
JUST BY LOOK-ING...
CLASS 2 TEAM
And what's Yarimizo from Class 3 doing here?
TADASHI GOTOH

obliga-tory minor actors
TSURUNIHA OO MUSHI AND HENOHENO MOHEJI ADDED TO MAKE THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS.

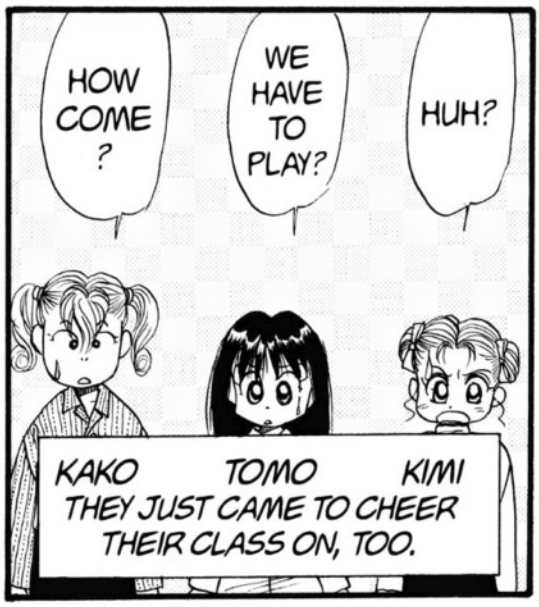

But I don't know the rules.
HUH?!
PLEASE PLAY, NAKA-NISHI.
AYUKO NAKANISHI
SHE ONLY CAME TO CHEER HER CLASS ON.
MEGUMI YARIMIZO
CLASS 3'S PRESIDENT

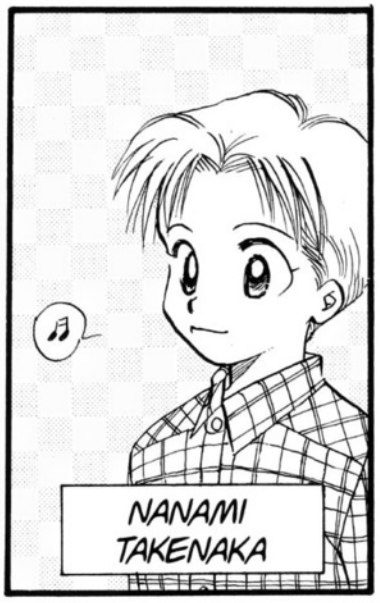
It's great to be back!
Hey!
TOKIO TAMADATE

I don't wanna play.
HITOSHI MORIGUCHI

"Those two"
This beats being at home looking after those two.
AKIHIRO FUJII

HUH?
SHINAKO FUKAYA JUST CAME TO CHEER ON THE TEAM.

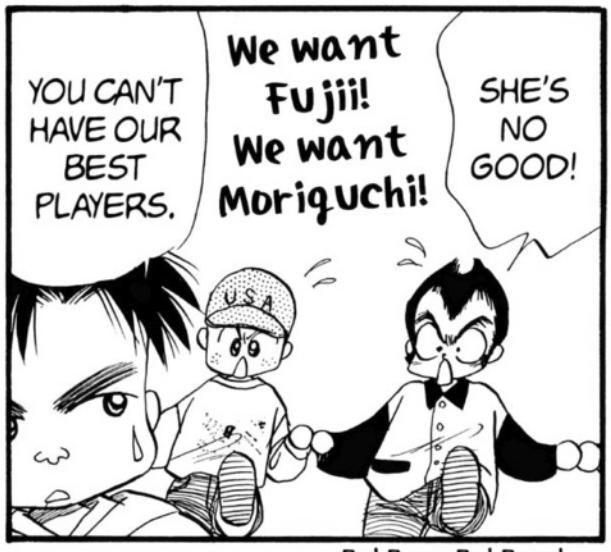

HOW COME ?
WE HAVE TO PLAY?
HUH?
KAKO TOMO KIMI THEY JUST CAME TO CHEER THEIR CLASS ON, TOO.


NANAMI TAKENAKA

CLASS 1 IS A PLAYER SHORT.
TAKUYA ENOKI CLASS 2'S PRESIDENT

NO! MINOWU PWAY TOO!
YOU CAN'T PLAY, MINORU.
NOT A CHANCE.

MINORU ENOKI


YOU CAN'T HAVE OUR BEST PLAYERS.
We want Fujii! We want Moriguchi!
SHE'S NO GOOD!
USA

OKAY. YOU CAN HAVE FUKAYA.
EEEK!
YOUR TEAM'S GOT AN EXTRA PERSON. GIVE US SOMEBODY.
WHUMP

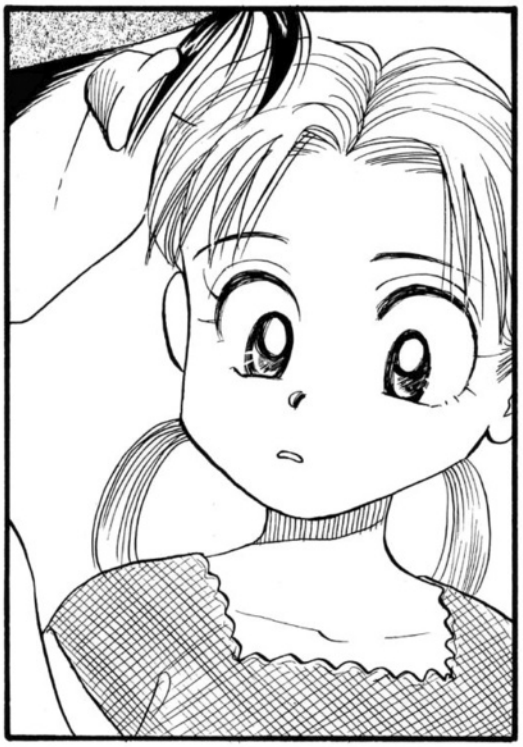
DARN. I SHOULD'VE MADE THEM TAKE TAMADATE.
AAAH !!
THWAK
THWAK
WE DON'T WANT YOU.

HEH ...
I GUESS THERE'S NO CHOICE.

I'LL...
...PLAY FOR CLASS I.
TOMP

SHI-NAKO ...

BUT I ONLY CAME TO CHEER THEM ON...
SIGH



DO YOUR BEST, OKAY?

Now let's have a good clean game!
BOTH TEAMS ...
...BOW ...
?
I WISH I COULD'VE BEEN ON TAKUYA'S TEAM...
GLOOM...
STAY SHARP.
OKAY ...
WHAK
Him
IT CAN ONLY BE...
...HIM.
WHO'S THEIR PITCHER?
MD
VIP
GOOD LUCK, TAKUYA.
YACK
YACK
WHAT'S THAT?
HEH HEH HEH...I'LL BRING YOU TO YOUR KNEES.
ENOKI'S UP FIRST?
WHIP
WHIP
WHIP
OH.

ENOKI, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!
DARN YOU!
WHAT DID I DO?

Ayuko! She's cheer-ing...
...for the enemy?!

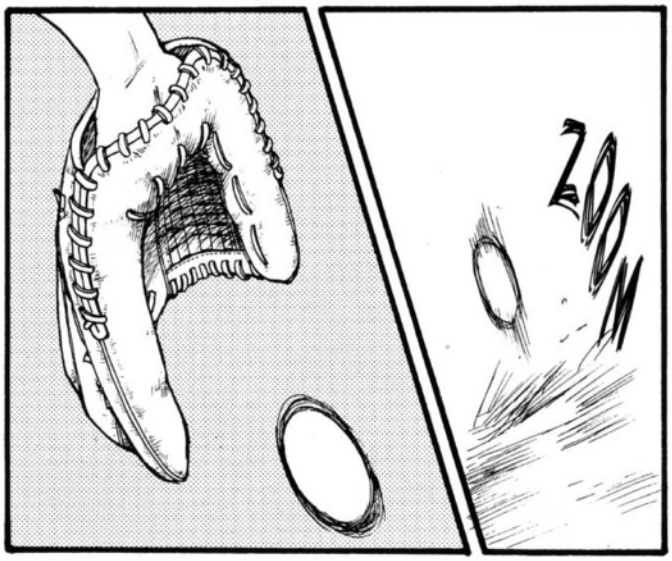
UGAH!

TAKUYA, DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO THAT BOY?
I DON'T THINK SO.
HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT.

HERE IT COMES.
SEE IF YOU CAN HIT MY DEVIL BALL!!

EEK
WHOA!

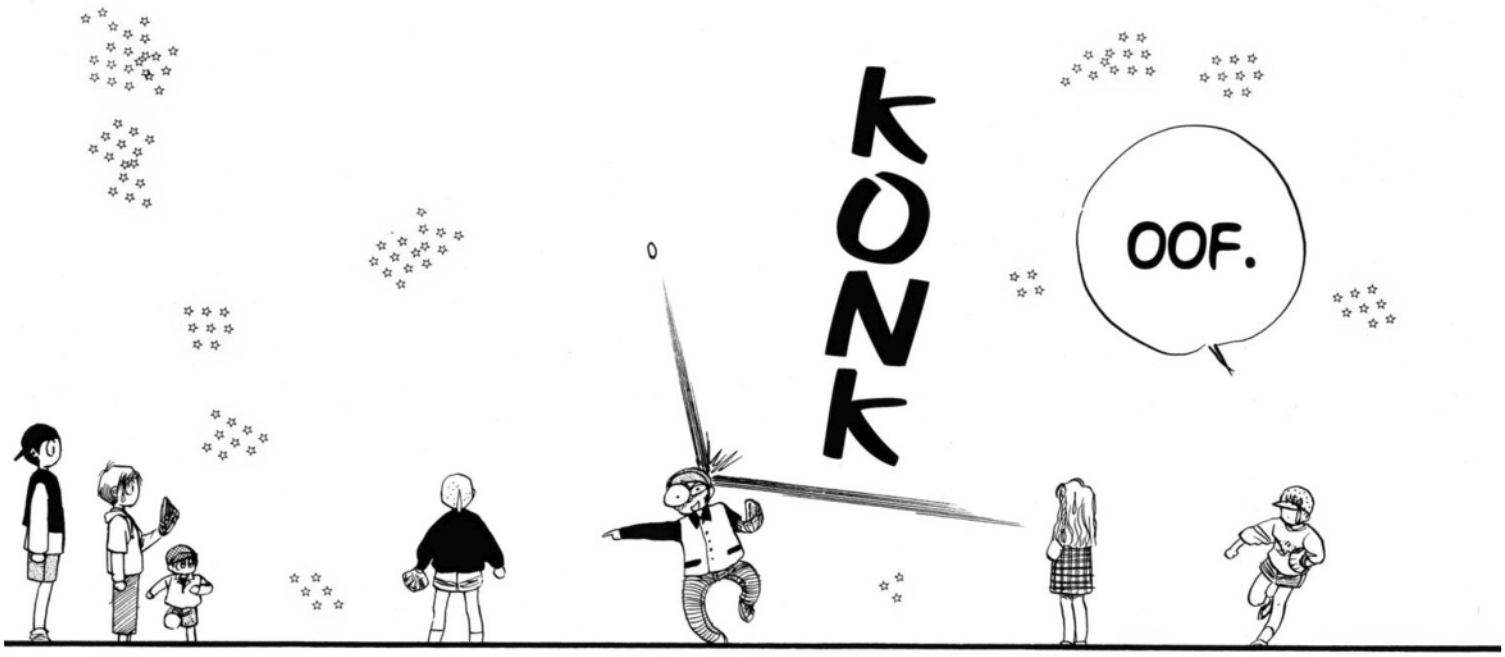
KRAK


ZOOM

HE GOT IT.
RAAAH
OH...

THWAP

NOW THROW IT TO FIRST BASE, BIG MURATA!
GOOD JOB!


KONK
OOF.

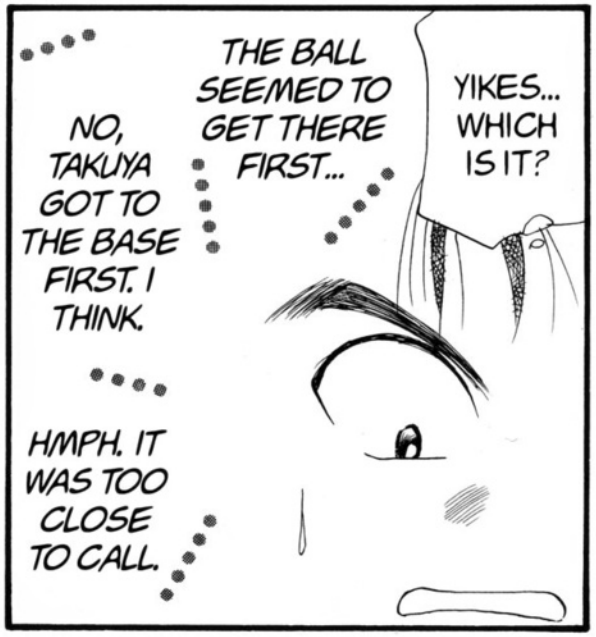
UH...
SEI-ICHI ...
AM I SAFE?

UNGH
SWAK
SHUM
OOOF.

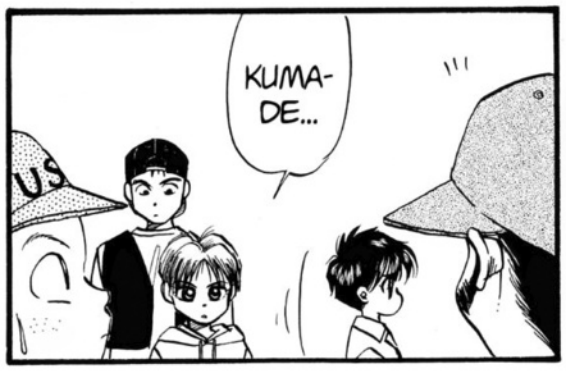
HUH?
HUH?
FWUMP
TMP TMP

HUH?
WHAT A CUTE KID.
STARE

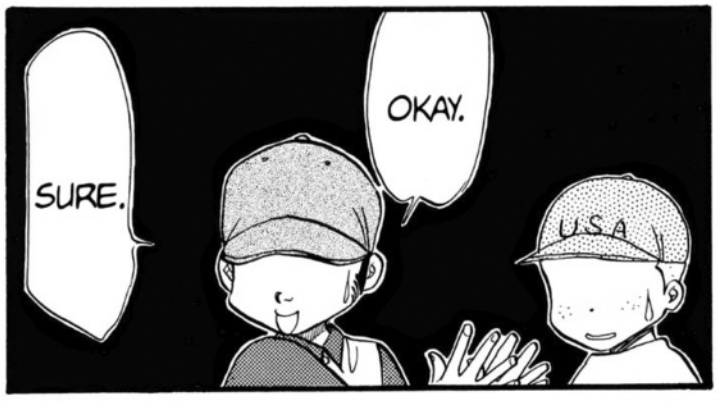
SEI-ICHI?
I'M THE LAW OUT HERE!!
HEH HEH HEH


YIKES... WHICH IS IT?
THE BALL SEEMED TO GET THERE FIRST...
NO, TAKUYA GOT TO THE BASE FIRST. I THINK.
HMPH. IT WAS TOO CLOSE TO CALL.

LOOKS LIKE KUMADE'S A JERK WHEN HE PLAYS SPORTS, TOO.
WHY DO THEY LET KUMADE BOSS THEM AROUND?
THE MURATA BROTHERS ARE PRETTY GOOD.


KUMA-DE...

KUMADE, JUST KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND PITCH!!
WHY, YOU...
YOU'RE OUT!
Out
WHAT?


SURE.
OKAY.

QUIT BOSSING PEOPLE AROUND...
...OR YOU'LL BE SORRY!

WHAT?
T-TAKUYA ...

HUH?

Author's Note: Part 1

Hello, Marimo Ragawa here again. Please bear with me awhile.

About Chapters 57 and 58:

As for my knowledge of baseball...the truth is, I have none, so this story was very difficult for me. There are other reasons why it was difficult:

- There were so many characters.
- It was a bother thinking up costumes for all the characters.
- Drawing the action scenes was hard.
- I fretted a lot about how to put drama into baseball.

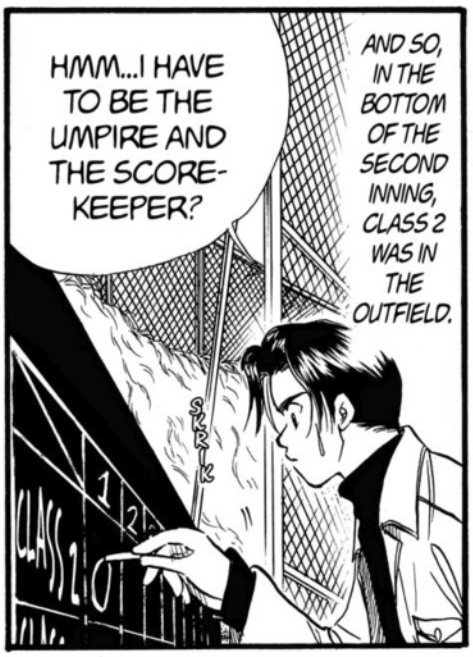
I'm afraid where baseball was concerned, there were some rough spots. But, oh well...What's done is done. Ha ha ha

---

In the last volume, when I wrote about Wyeth and Peter Sato, I received a lot of things from readers--like flyers for a Wyeth exhibit, bookmarks, and letters on Peter Sato stationery. Thank you all very much.

I got some questions about who published Peter Sato's book of illustrations *Pastel Works*. It was published by Cleo, Inc. and sold for 3,800 yen. You can probably order it at your local bookstore. I highly recommend it.

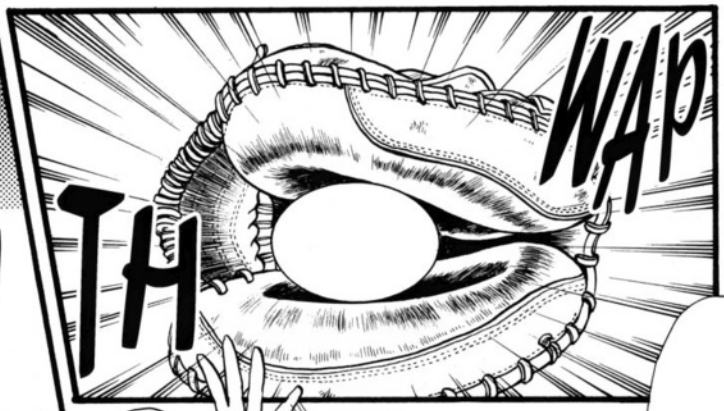
It's excellent.

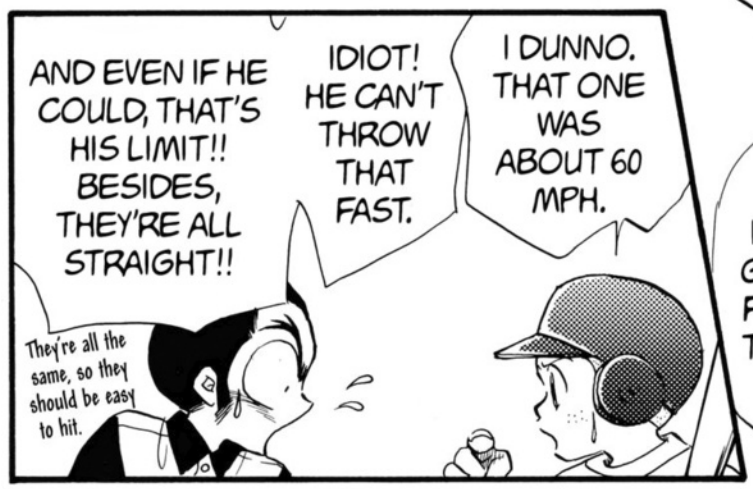

HMM...I HAVE TO BE THE UMPIRE AND THE SCORE-KEEPER?
AND SO, IN THE BOTTOM OF THE SECOND INNING, CLASS 2 WAS IN THE OUTFIELD.
STRIKE
CLASS 2

THE THIRD BATTER, MORI-GUCHI...
...HIT A GROUNDER TO SECOND. (IF IT HAD GONE PAST IT WOULD'VE BEEN A HIT, BUT SECOND BASEMAN MURATA WAS TOO FAST.)
KLANG

THE SECOND BATTER, MOE...
...HIT A POP FLY TO THIRD. (SHORT-STOP AYUKO SHOULD'VE TAKEN IT, BUT THIRD BASEMAN MURATA CAUGHT IT FOR HER.)
OH.

...BUT HE'S NO THREAT TO US.
HE CAN THROW PRETTY FAST...
AH...
WHAP

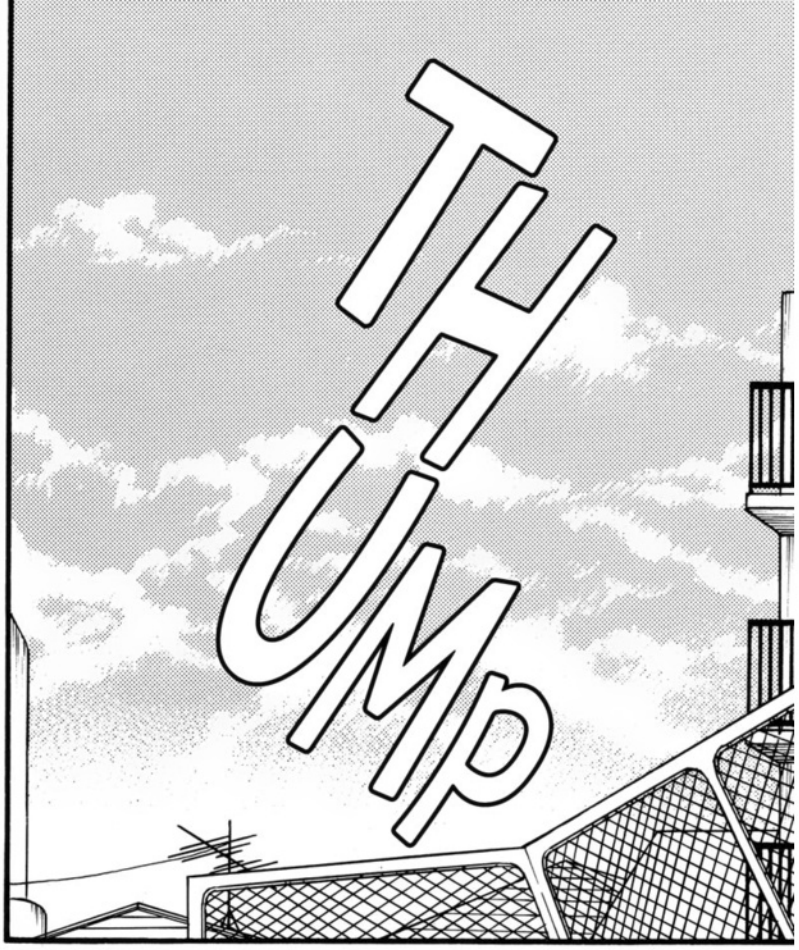

WAP
TH

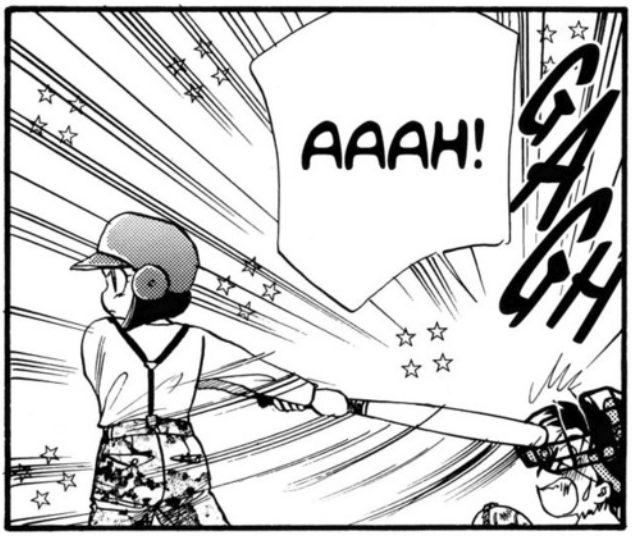

AND EVEN IF HE COULD, THAT'S HIS LIMIT!! BESIDES, THEY'RE ALL STRAIGHT!!
IDIOT! HE CAN'T THROW THAT FAST.
I DUNNO. THAT ONE WAS ABOUT 60 MPH.
They're all the same, so they should be easy to hit.

FWAP
FWAP
OKAY...
I'M IN GOOD FORM TODAY.
PITCHER FUJII

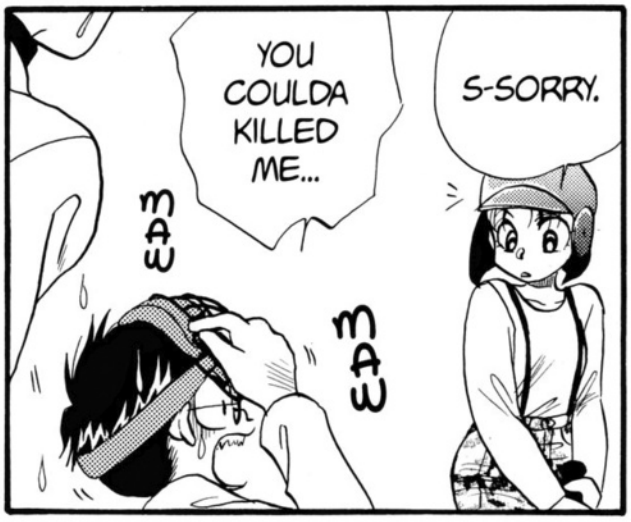
Eeek! This is scary!
A HIT TO CENTER FIELD...
BOMP
KIMI--CENTER FIELD
THREE STRIKES.
SWISH
FIRST BATTER--BIG BROTHER MURATA...
THREE STRIKES.
SWAK
SECOND BATTER--FUKAYA...
KRAK
TWO OUTS AND THE THIRD BATTER WAS HIROSE.
OH, WELL...
IT'S JUST A GAME.
AKIHIRO'S TAKING IT EASY.
MORIGUCHI--CATCHER
JUST HIT THE BALL WHERE NOBODY CAN GET TO IT.
KUMADE, NEVER MIND THE POSING ...
...WAS KUMADE.
NOW IT'S MY TURN.
SAFE.
OKAY...
Hurry!
FIRST--TAKENAKA.
AW-RIGHT ...
THE FOURTH BATTER UP...

THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE... I COULDN'T HELP IT.
My hand slipped...
BATTER TO FIRST.
HIT BY THE PITCH!
Agh ...

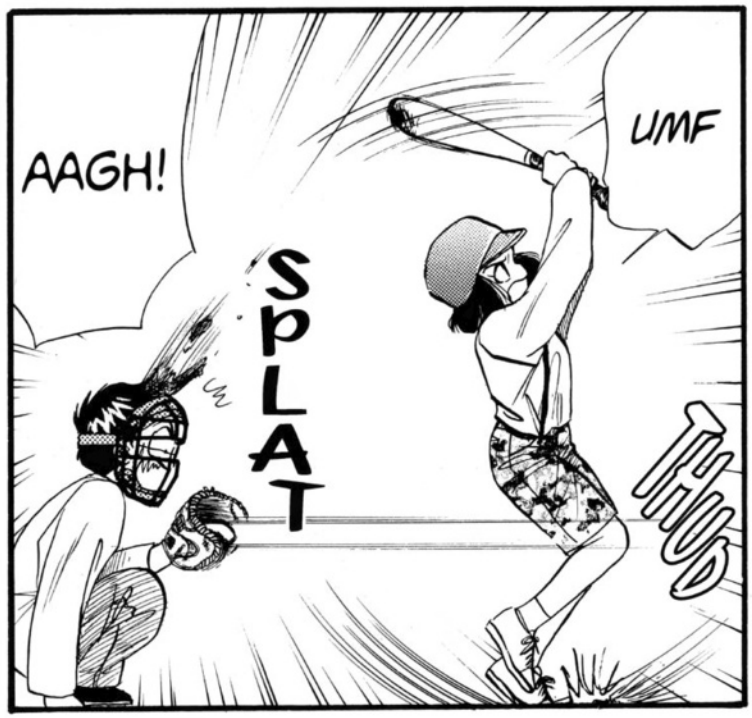

THUMP


AAAH!
GAGH

AGH... THIS MASK IS IRRITATING. I OUGHTA TAKE IT OFF.
TAKE IT EASY ON ME.
FIFTH BATTER-- YARIMIZO.


YOU COULDA KILLED ME...
S-SORRY.
MAW
MAW

WOOSH

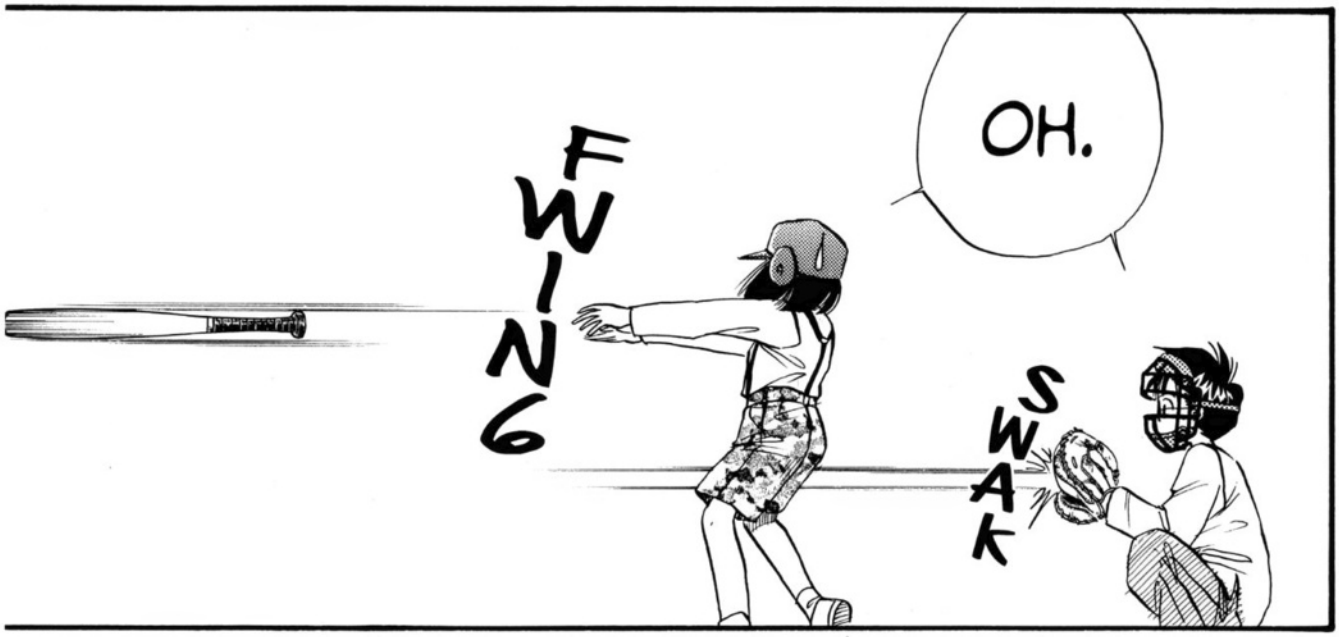

AAGH!
UMF
SPLAT
THUD

I THINK I'LL MOVE BACK A LITTLE.
THAT'S STRANGE. AM I SWINGING IT WRONG OR SOMETHING?
I THINK I'LL LEAVE THE MASK ON.

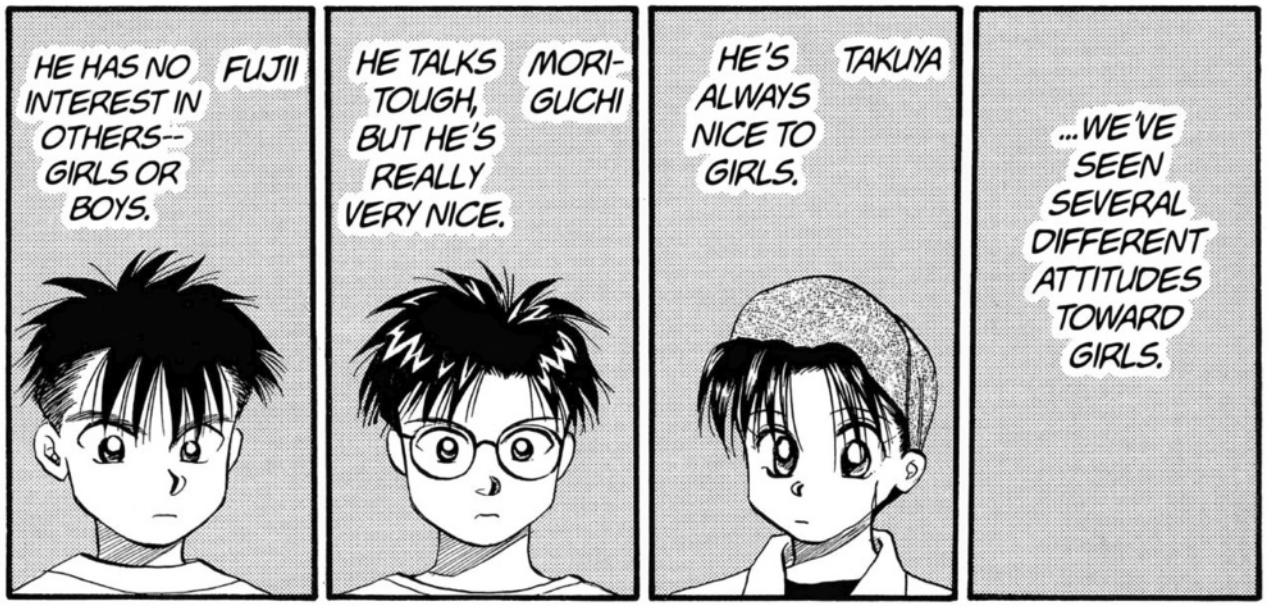
TUGG
OKAY.

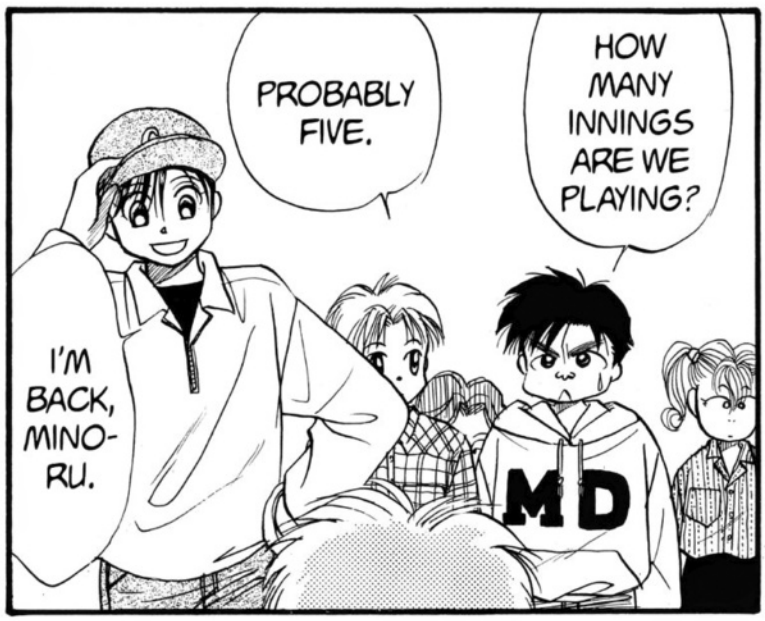
SWING IT SIDE-WAYS, SIDE-WAYS.
Hmph!
THAT'S STRANGE.

HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE DUG UP DIRT? HUH?
Huh?
OH, THERE'S DIRT ALL OVER YOU.


OH.
FWING
SWAK

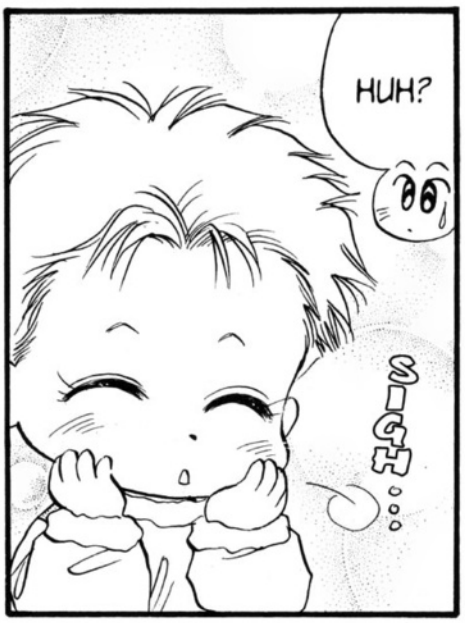
WHAM
OH!
!!
THIRD BASE, TAKUYA
SHORTSTOP, TAMADATE
THUD
FUJII, CALM DOWN!!
SHE'S A GIRL!!
I'LL KILL HER.
SO FAR...
THAT'S THREE OUTS! SWITCH!
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, FUJII?
HEY, FUJII...
SECOND BASE--GON


FUJII
HE HAS NO INTEREST IN OTHERS-- GIRLS OR BOYS.
MORI-GUCHI
HE TALKS TOUGH, BUT HE'S REALLY VERY NICE.
TAKUYA
HE'S ALWAYS NICE TO GIRLS.
...WE'VE SEEN SEVERAL DIFFERENT ATTITUDES TOWARD GIRLS.

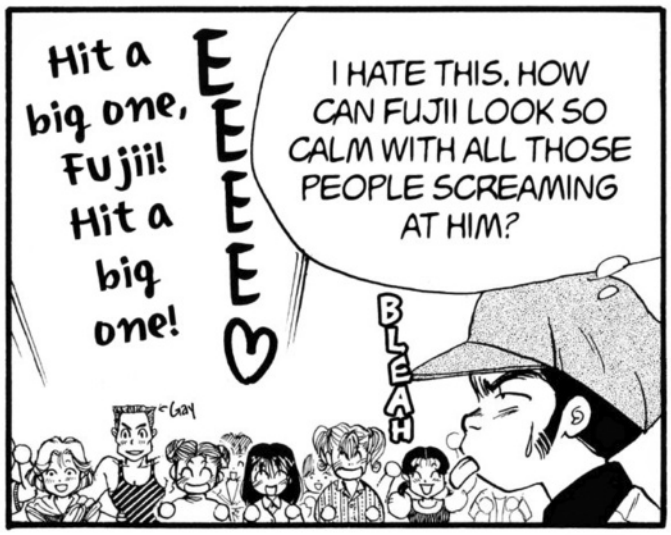

HOW MANY INNINGS ARE WE PLAYING?
PROBABLY FIVE.
I'M BACK, MINO-RU.
MD

...

BAT GO "CWACK"! WOWWIE!
DID YOU SAY "QUACK"?
HUH?
EASY, FUJII. HE'S A LITTLE KID.


HUH?
SIGH...

...IN THE BOTTOM OF THE THIRD INNING, CLASS 2 WAS BATTING. THEY HAD ONE OUT.
AND SO...
1 2
CLASS 2 0 0
CLASS 1 0 0
WHAT'S THIS?
WUNN
HEY, IT LOOKS LIKE OUR AUDIENCE IS GROWING.
WUNN
WUNN
TWO OUTS ...
Sorry ...
BATTER TWO, MOE, STRUCK OUT.
THWAP
GON ADVANCED TO THIRD BASE, AND BATTER TAKUYA TO SECOND.
TAKUYA, BATTER ONE, GOT A HIT TOWARD LEFT FIELD.
BACK TO THE TOP OF THE BATTING ORDER ...
GON, THE NINTH BATTER, WAS ON FIRST.
MD
THE FOURTH BATTER STEPPED UP TO THE PLATE.
WITH THE BASES LOADED, CLASS 2 WAS IN A FAVORABLE POSITION.
HOWEVER, THEY ALREADY HAD TWO OUTS.
That's pathetic, Moriguchi!! A man swings!!
Say what you want. It's all about control.
BATTER THREE, MORI-GUCHI, WAS CAREFUL AND GOT WALKED TO FIRST.


Hit a big one, Fujii! Hit a big one!
EEEEE♡
I HATE THIS. HOW CAN FUJII LOOK SO CALM WITH ALL THOSE PEOPLE SCREAMING AT HIM?
BLEAH

EEEEE♡
IT WAS FUJII.
Good luck, Fujii!

HE THINKS ...
...HE'S SUCH A STUD.

BALL!

WHAP

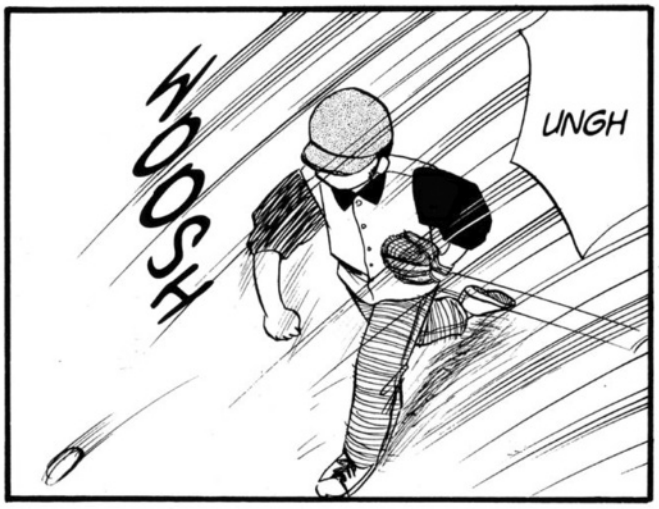
HOOSH
THAT JERK!

What the...?

HE DID THAT ON PURPOSE!
GRR

HMPH
WHAP

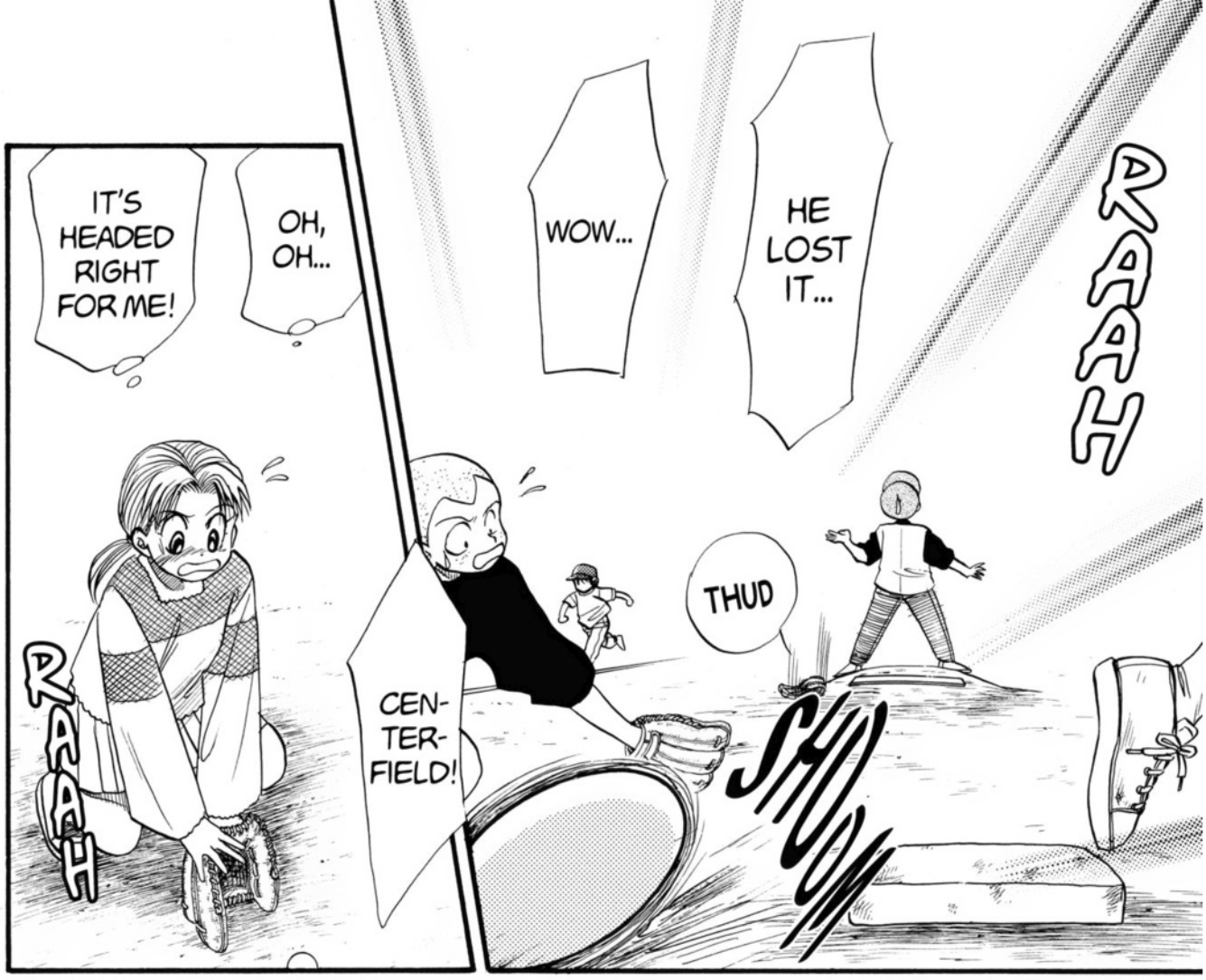
...


WOOSH
UNGH

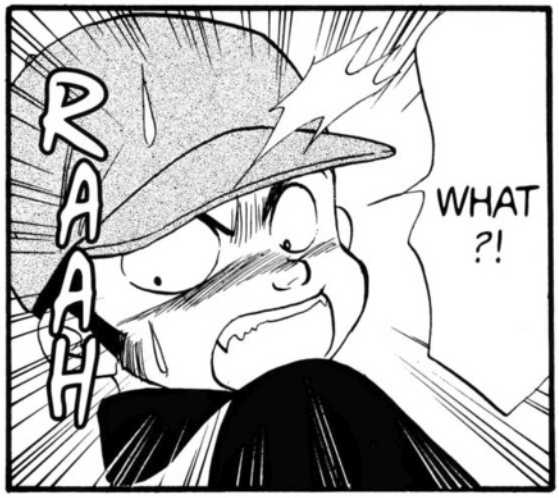
I KNOW ...
COME ON, KUMADE!
PHEW

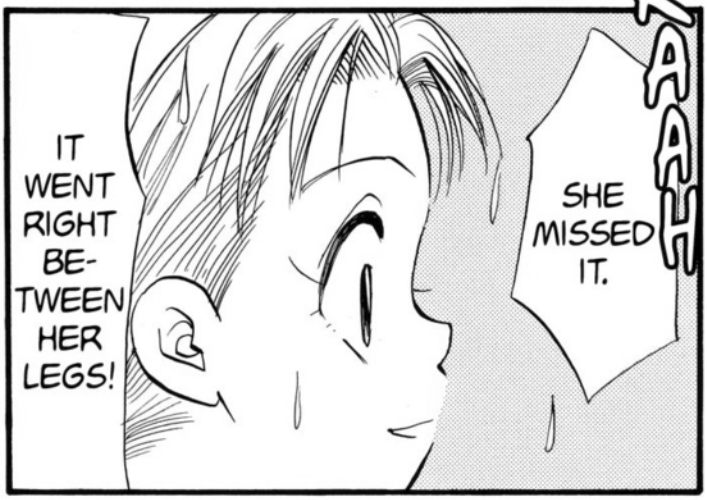
KRAK

UH-OH ...
WHOOM
LINE DRIVE TO THE PITCHER...
WHIAP
WHUP
HUH?


IT'S HEADED RIGHT FOR ME!
OH, OH...
RAAH
WOW...
HE LOST IT...
RAAH
CEN-TER-FIELD!
THUD
SHUM

OH...


RAAH
WHAT ?!


RAAH
SHE MISSED IT.
IT WENT RIGHT BE-TWEEN HER LEGS!

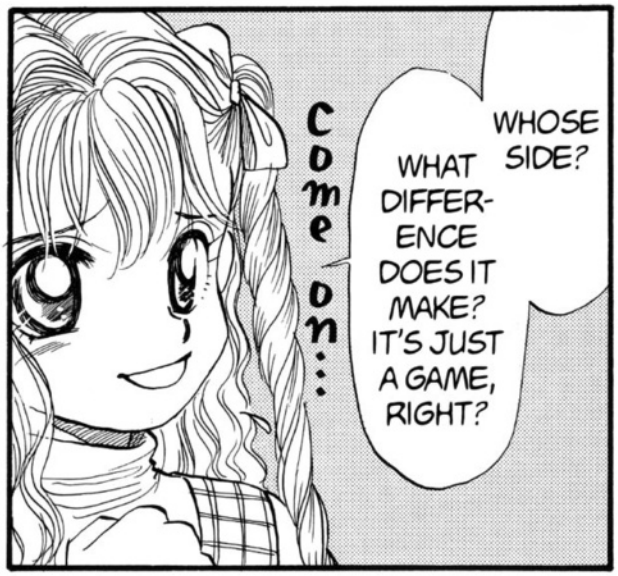
IT'S SO HOT ...
RAAH
RAAH
MORI-GUCHI, STOP! STOP!
YEAH! TAKUYA, YOU'RE OUR SECOND RUN!
!!
tmp
WITH FUJII ON SECOND AND MORIGUCHI ON THIRD, CLASS 2 HAD TWO OUTS.
CLASS 2 HAD TWO RUNS.
WHA...
IT WAS JUST A GROUND-ER!!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING!?
THWAP

WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON, ANYWAY?
GEEZ, AYUKO ...

MAYBE IT WASN'T A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE FUJII MAD.
KUMA-DE...

...
RAAH
RAAH

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I WANT TO WIN?!
JUST A GAME?!

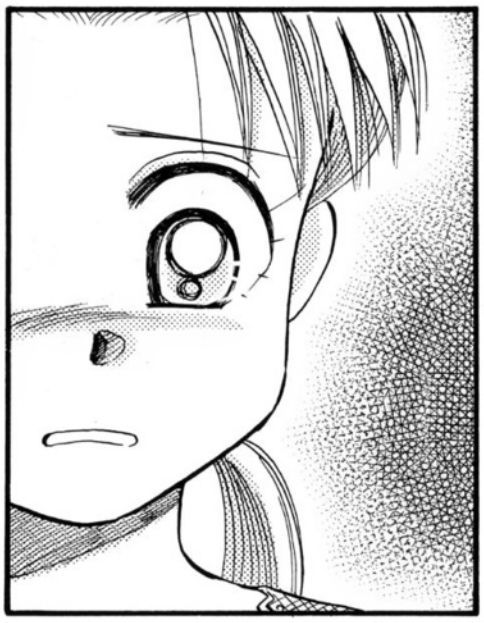

WHOSE SIDE?
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? IT'S JUST A GAME, RIGHT?
Come on...

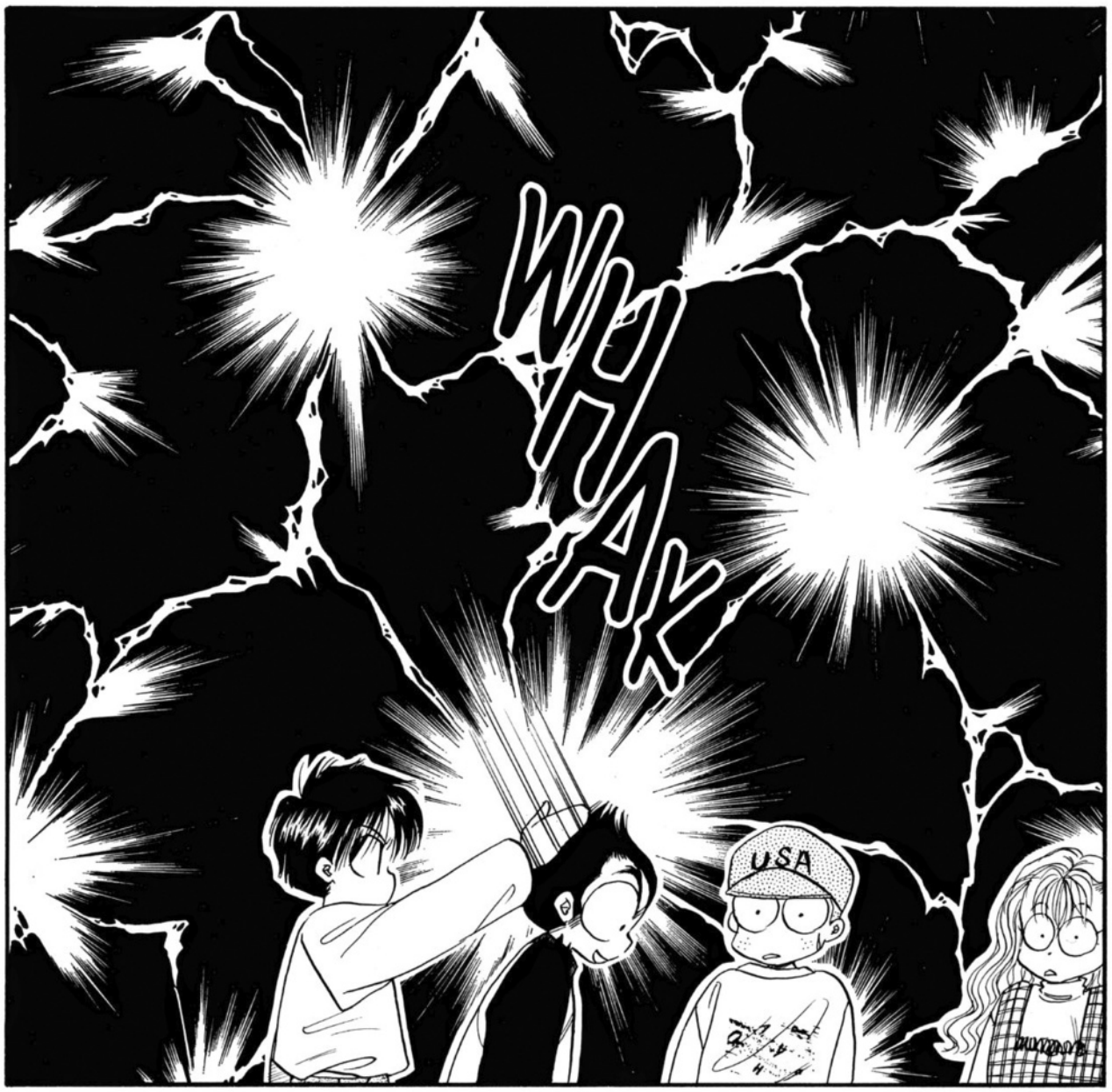
THAT'S WHY YOU GAVE US CLUMSY, ISN'T IT?
WHAT? YOU GUYS WANT TO WIN, TOO, DON'T YOU?

HEY!
KUMADE, STOP SCREAMING AT EVERYBODY ELSE.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S OUT OF LINE.
GRR

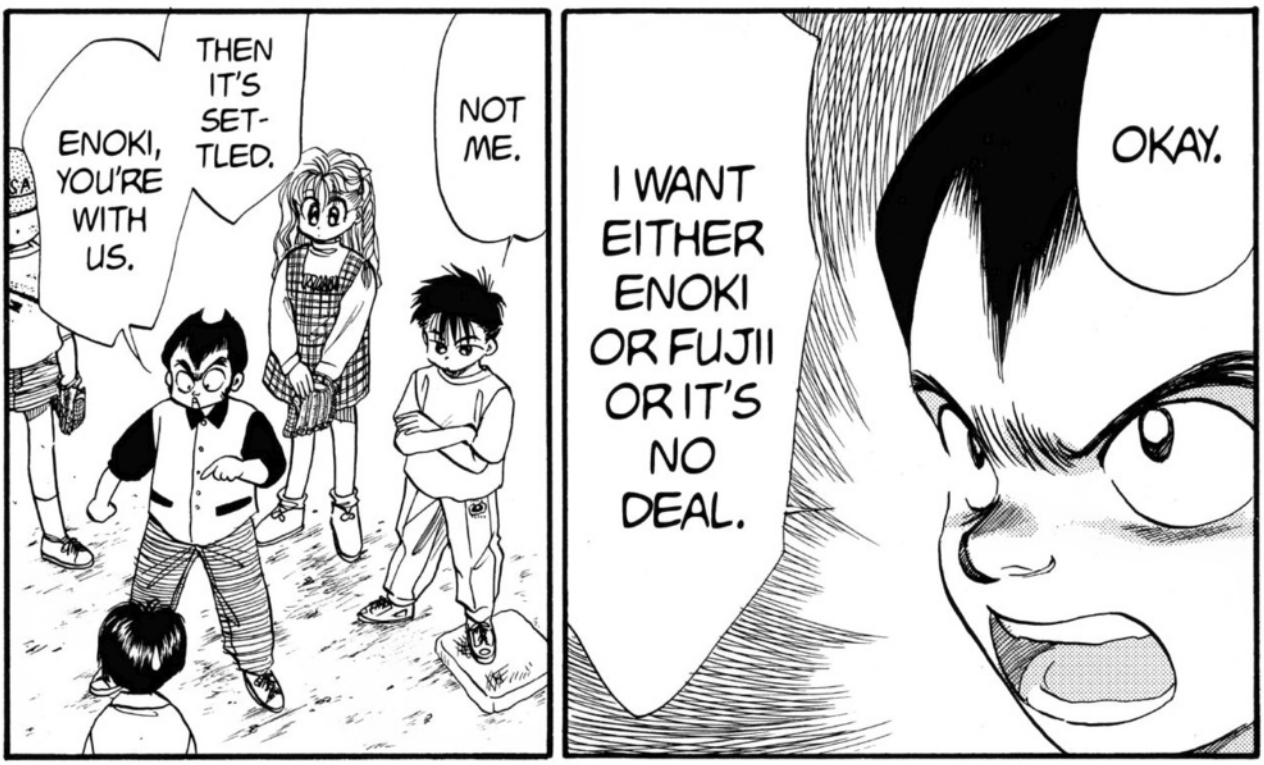
SHUT UP! I DON'T WANT ANYBODY WHO CAN'T EVEN CATCH A GROUND BALL!!
TAKE IT EASY, KUMADE.
USA

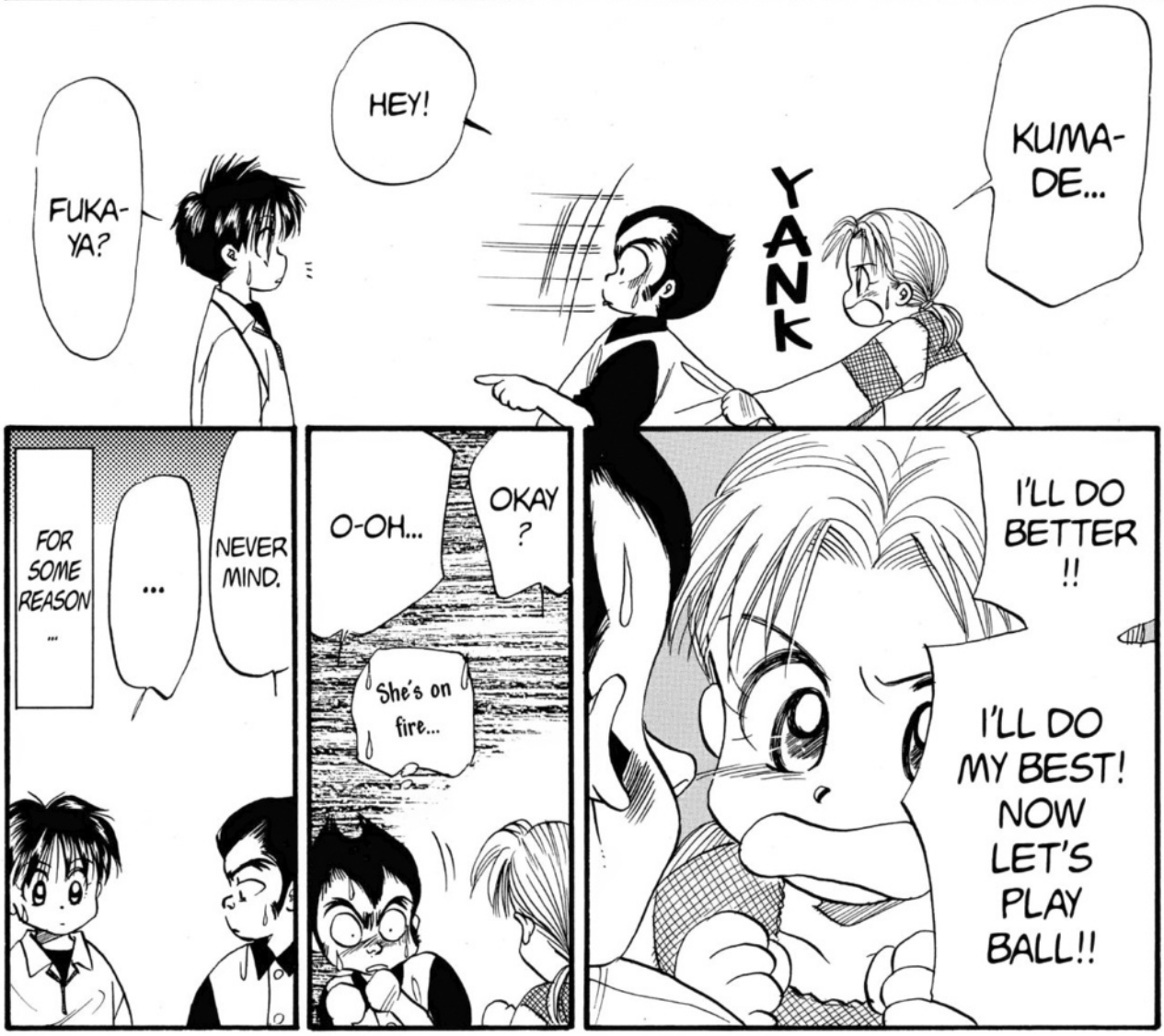
UH-OH...
THIS ...
...COULD RUIN THE WHOLE GAME.




WHAK
USA

WH-WHAT?!
IF YOU'RE JUST GOING TO ABUSE HER, GIVE HER BACK TO US.
YOU HIT ME! HARD!
FUKAYA'S DOING THE BEST SHE CAN!
HEY...
NO WAY.
TAMA-DATE...
FINE, BUT YOU GOTTA GIVE US SOMEBODY ELSE.
HURRY UP.
WHAT ABOUT THE GAME?
WUZZ
HEY!
WUZZ
GIVE US SOME-BODY WHO CAN PLAY!!
PICKY? YOU'RE TRYING TO CHEAT US!
DON'T BE PICKY.

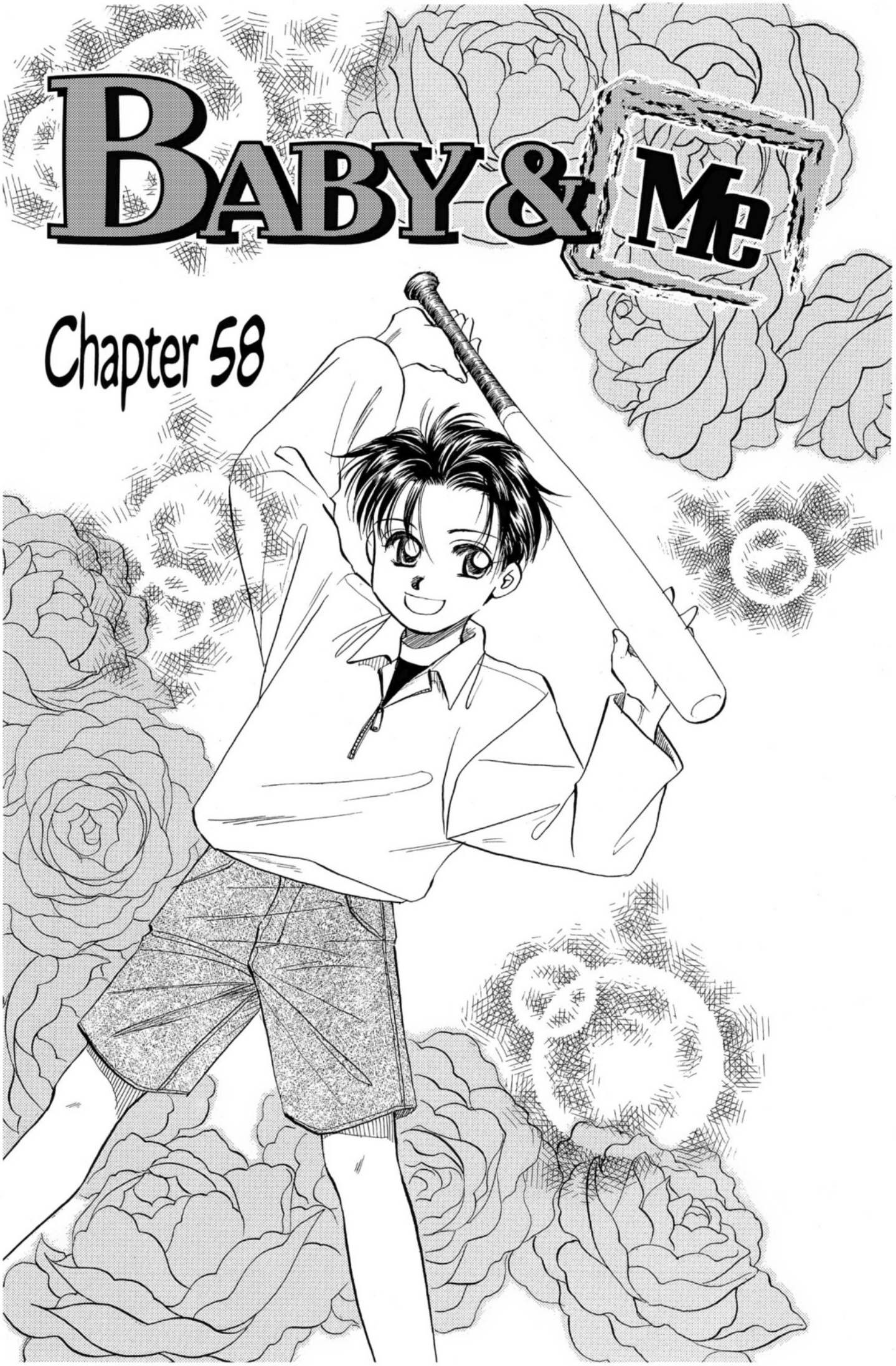

ENOKI, YOU'RE WITH US.
THEN IT'S SET-TLED.
NOT ME.
I WANT EITHER ENOKI OR FUJII OR IT'S NO DEAL.
OKAY.

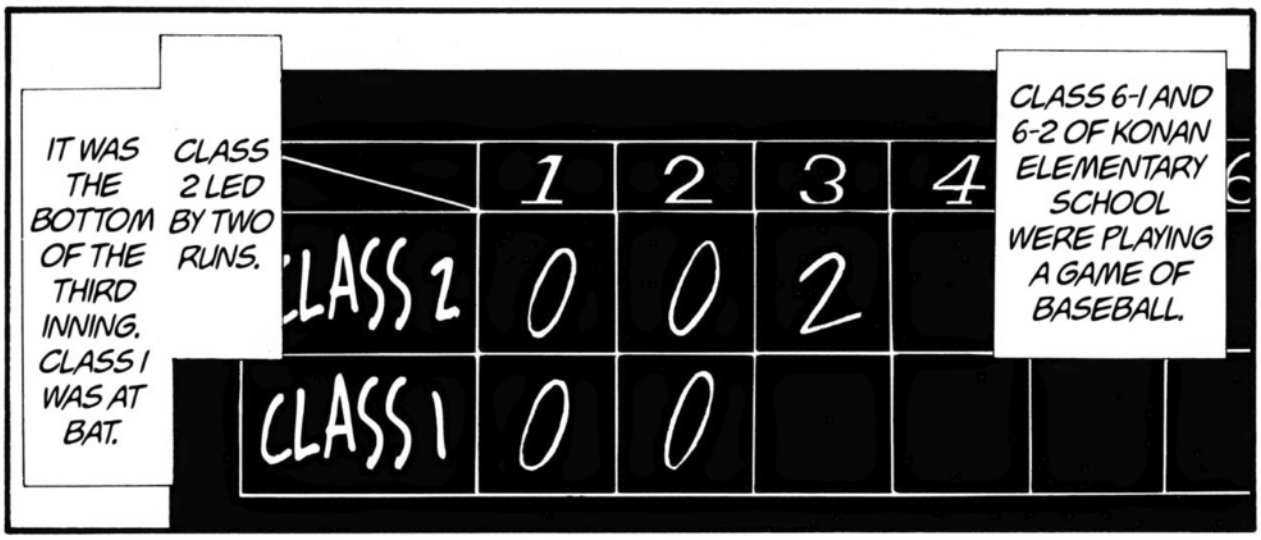

FUKA-YA?
HEY!
YANK
KUMA-DE...
FOR SOME REASON ...
...
NEVER MIND.
O-OH...
OKAY ?
She's on fire...
I'LL DO BETTER !!
I'LL DO MY BEST! NOW LET'S PLAY BALL!!

Chapter 57 / The End

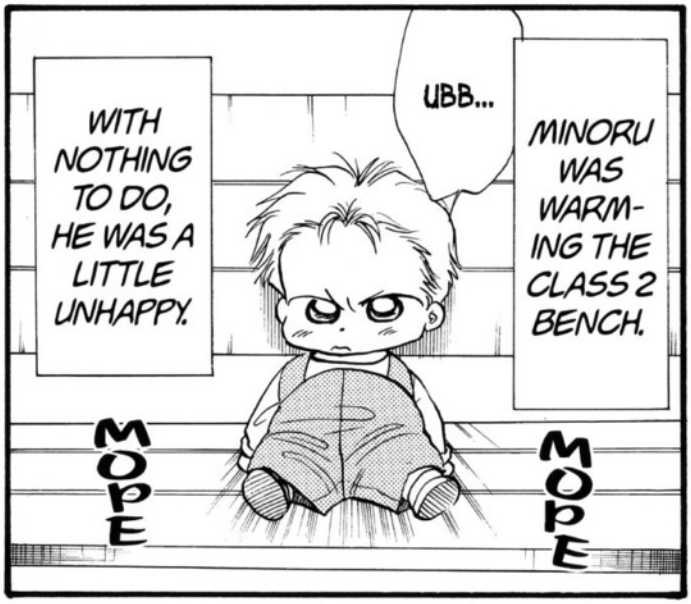
BABY & Me

Chapter 58

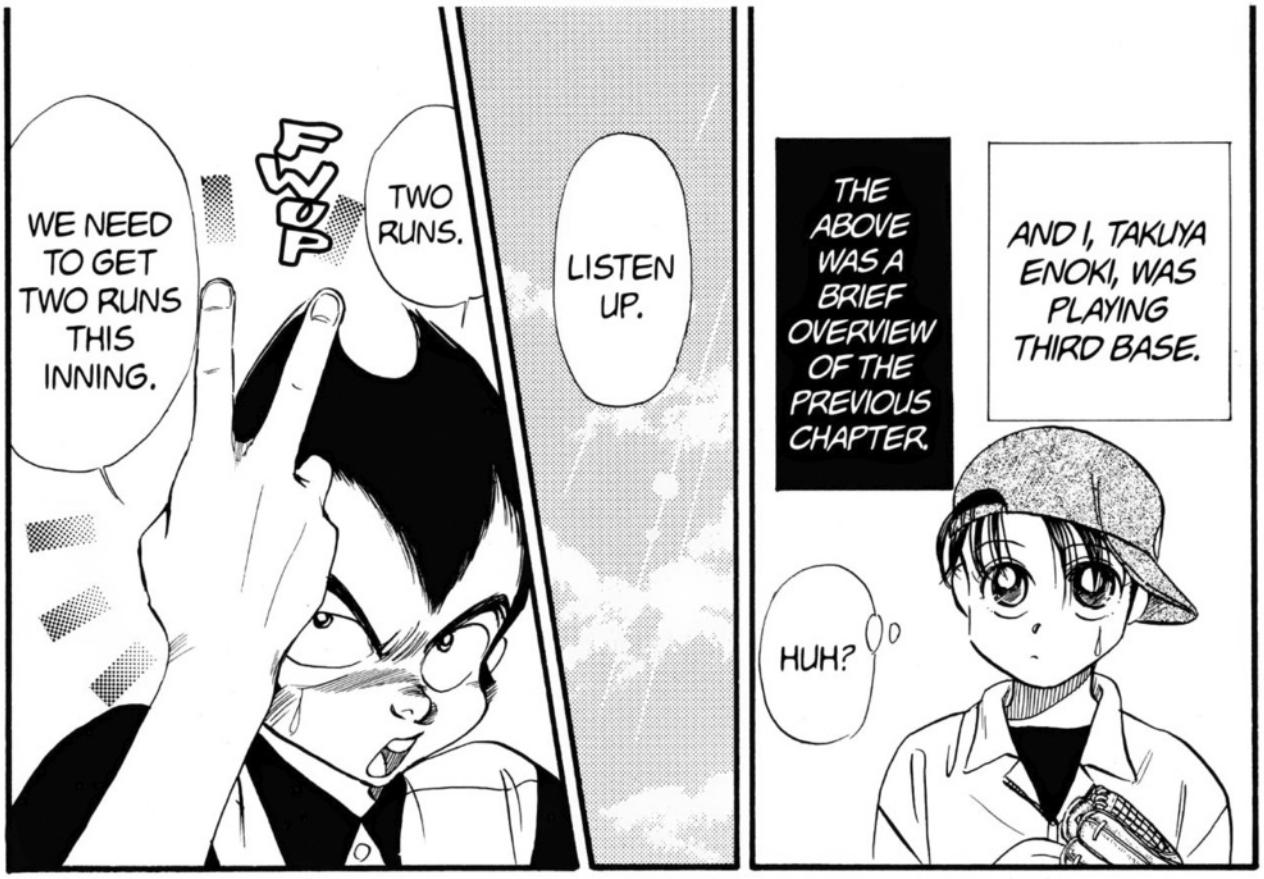



IT WAS THE BOTTOM OF THE THIRD INNING. CLASS 1 WAS AT BAT.
CLASS 2 LED BY TWO RUNS.
1 2 3 4
CLASS 2 0 0 2
CLASS 1 0 0
CLASS 6-1 AND 6-2 OF KONAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WERE PLAYING A GAME OF BASEBALL.

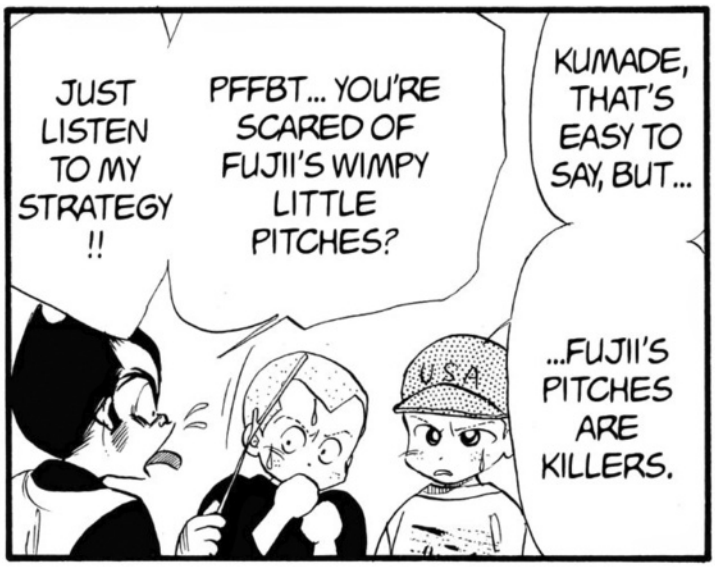
I THOUGHT THEY LOOKED FAMILIAR. THEY'RE FROM CLASSES 3 AND 4.
Class 2, you'd better not lose.
Get 'em, you guys!
AND IN THE STANDS...
WAH
WAH


WITH NOTHING TO DO, HE WAS A LITTLE UNHAPPY.
UBB...
MINORU WAS WARMING THE CLASS 2 BENCH.
MOPE
MOPE

...WERE DAD AND SEIICHI.
I HAVE TO KEEP TRACK OF ALL OF THE BALLS.
HARUMI, YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'RE JUST THE UMPIRE.
THE UMPIRES, WHO HADN'T GOTTEN A BREAK YET...


LISTEN UP.
TWO RUNS.
FLIP
WE NEED TO GET TWO RUNS THIS INNING.
THE ABOVE WAS A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER.
AND I, TAKUYA ENOKI, WAS PLAYING THIRD BASE.
HUH?

THE FIRST BATTER, BIG BROTHER MURATA, WILL GET A BASE HIT AND GO TO FIRST.
WHAT IF I CAN'T ?
SKRIIIT
SKRIIIT
DO IT!! THEN YOU'LL STEAL SECOND.

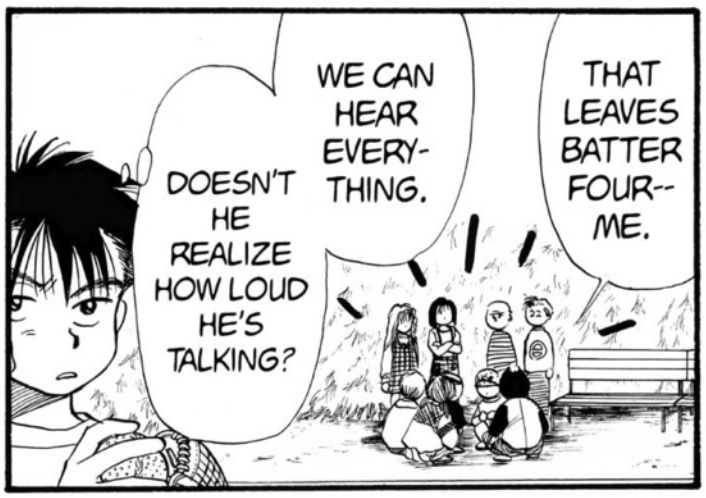

KUMADE, THAT'S EASY TO SAY, BUT...
PFFBT... YOU'RE SCARED OF FUJII'S WIMPY LITTLE PITCHES?
JUST LISTEN TO MY STRATEGY !!
...FUJII'S PITCHES ARE KILLERS.
U.S.A

BIG BROTHER MURATA WILL COME HOME FOR ONE RUN.
FOLLOWING THIS STRATEGY, WE'LL HAVE TWO OUTS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE ARE, PROFESSIONALS?

A SACRIFICE FLY? BUNT? WHAT ARE THEY?
THEN BATTER THREE, HIROSE, WILL DO A SQUEEZE PLAY.

NO WAY! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
JUST SHUT UP AND LISTEN!
THE SECOND BATTER, FUKAYA, WILL EITHER HIT A SACRIFICE FLY OR BUNT, AND YOU'LL ADVANCE TO THIRD.
U.S.A

YARI-MIZO'S AFTER ME. SHE'S WORTH-LESS...
...SO THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO.
WHAT ?

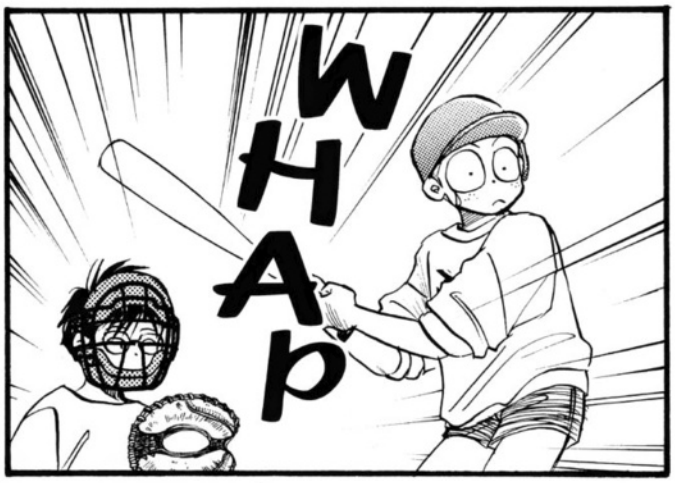

THAT LEAVES BATTER FOUR--ME.
WE CAN HEAR EVERY-THING.
DOESN'T HE REALIZE HOW LOUD HE'S TALKING?

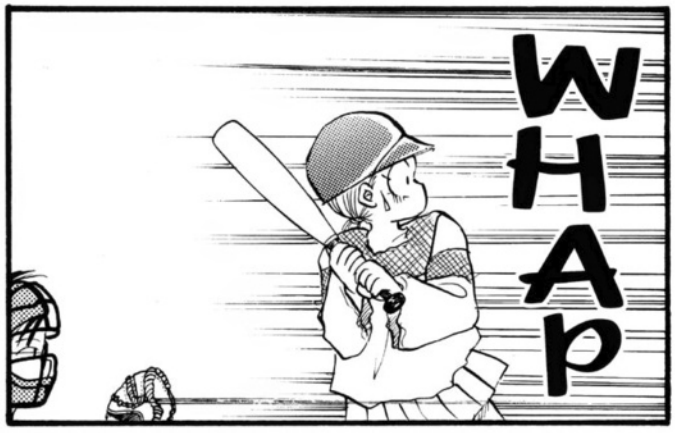
I...
...WILL HIT A HOME RUN!!

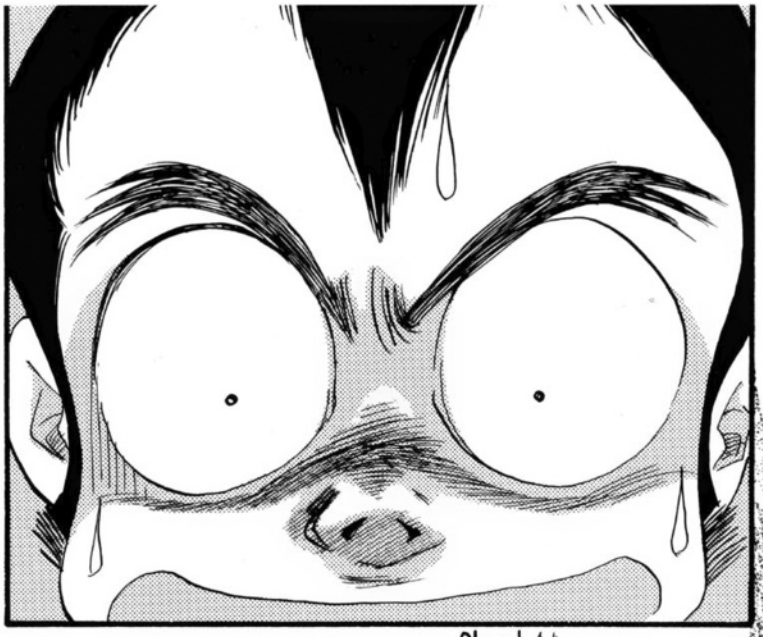
CAN'T WE JUST DO OUR BEST AND BE HAPPY WITH THAT?
HUH?
HUH?
LET'S GO!

HOW-
EVER...

THAT'S THREE! CHANGE SIDES!
STRIKE! YOU'RE OUT!
WHAp

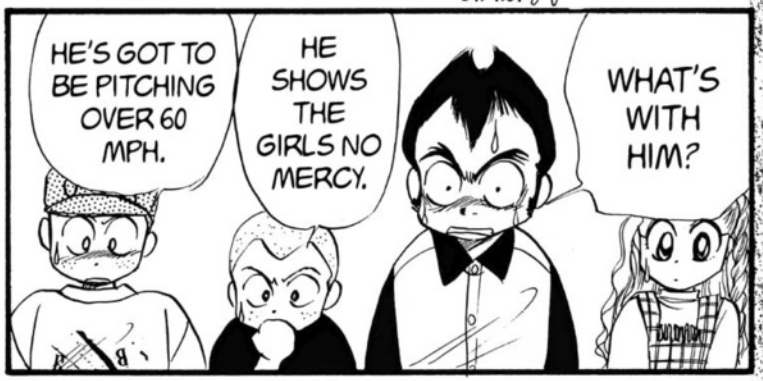

WHAp


WHAp

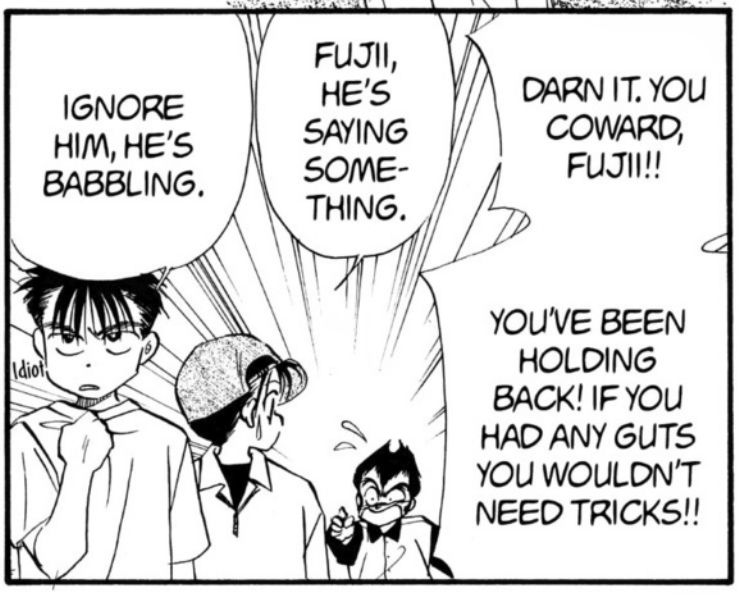


IT'S SO HOT ...

Oh no!


HE'S GOT TO BE PITCHING OVER 60 MPH.
HE SHOWS THE GIRLS NO MERCY.
WHAT'S WITH HIM?

HMM... IT'S STRANGE.
WHY WOULD SO MANY KIDS FROM OTHER CLASSES BE INTERESTED IN THIS GAME?


IGNORE HIM, HE'S BABBLING.
FUJII, HE'S SAYING SOME-THING.
DARN IT. YOU COWARD, FUJII!!
YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING BACK! IF YOU HAD ANY GUTS YOU WOULDN'T NEED TRICKS!!
Idiot

YACK
YACK
...

Author's Note: Part 2

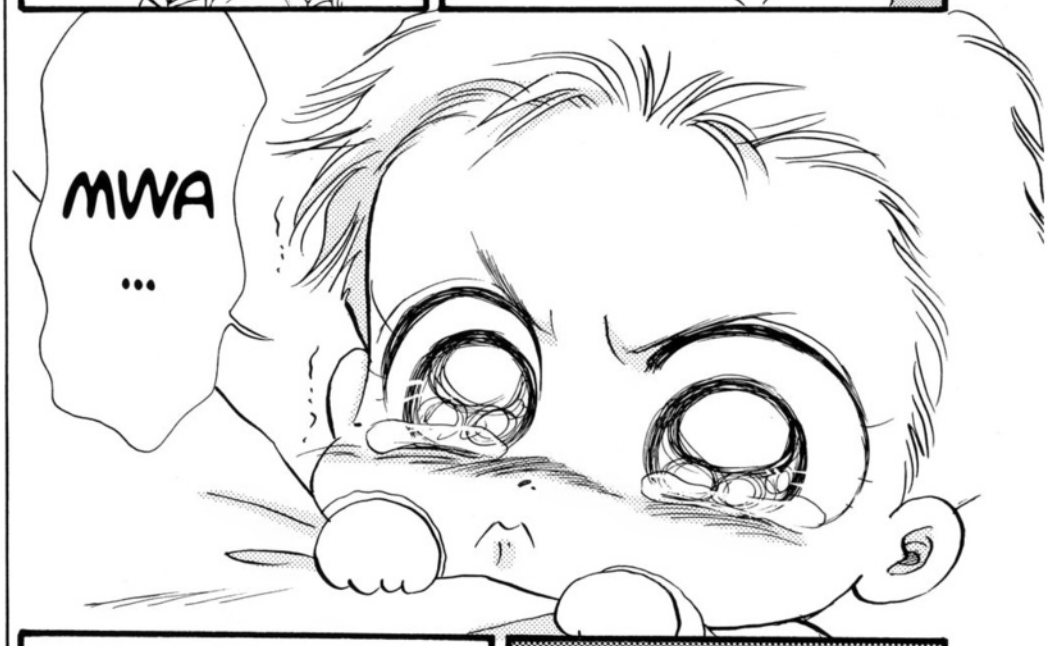
Celebrating the Acceptance of the Shogakukan Manga Award

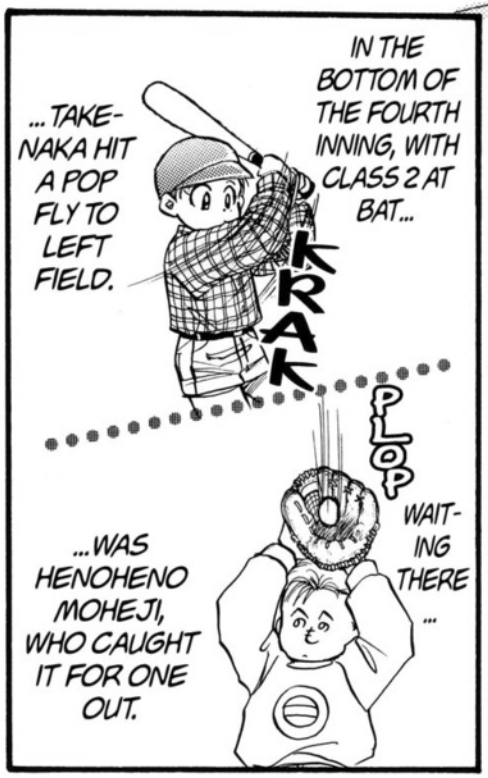
On March 3, 1995, I attended the 40th Annual Shogakukan Manga Awards Presentations.

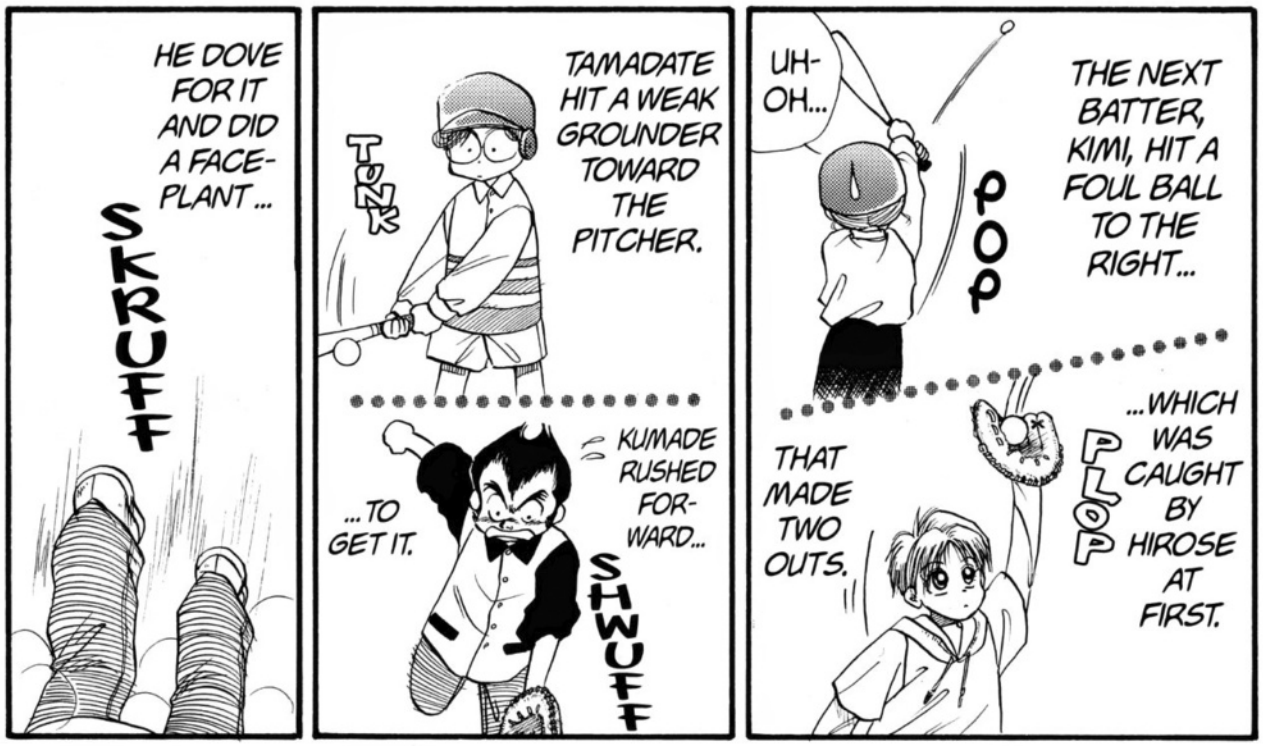
I was so nervous, I thought I'd faint. I'd been working on a draft up until the day before, so I hadn't slept a wink. Because of this, I was pale, my eyes were dull, and I was wobbly. My kimono sash was too tight, and that, combined with everything else, made me throw up in the taxi going home. (I'm sorry, driver. I'm so sorry.)

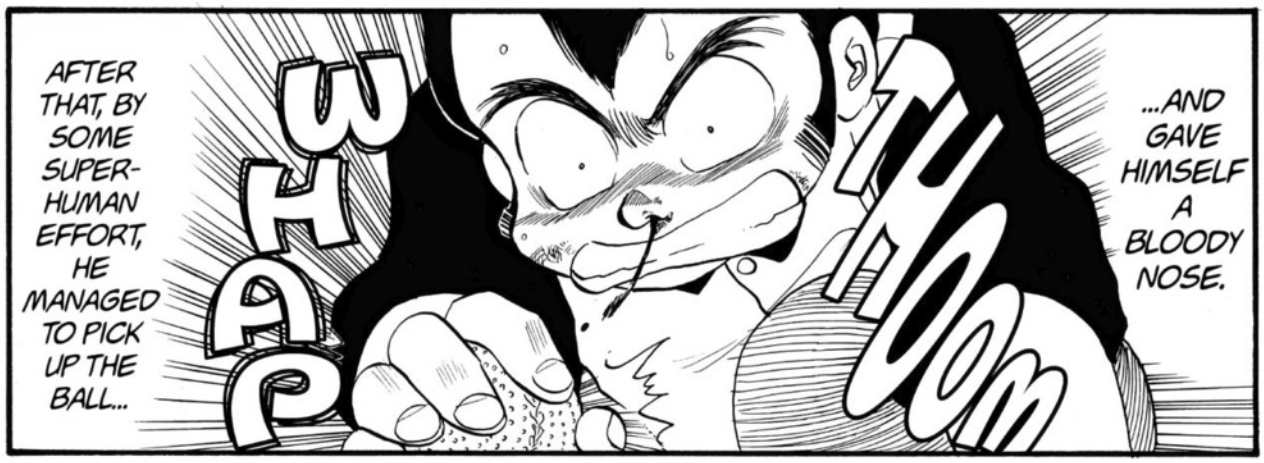
Incidentally, I don't photograph well. My ugly face looked even uglier.

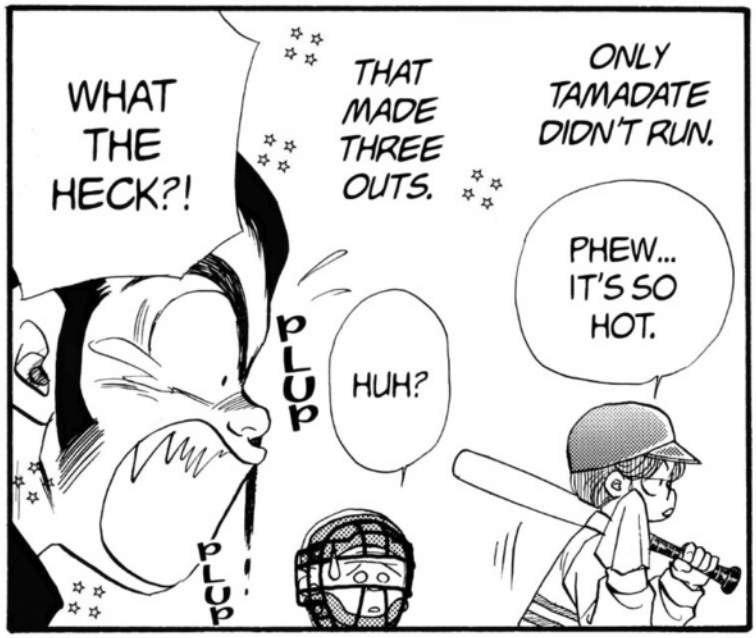
Oh, and I was interviewed by my hometown newspaper and TV station (in Aomori Prefecture). Hurray!

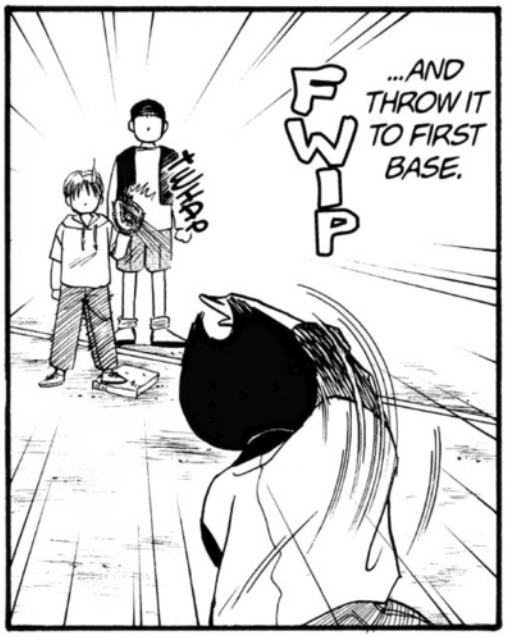





HE DOVE FOR IT AND DID A FACE-PLANT...
SKRUFF
TAMADATE HIT A WEAK GROUNDER TOWARD THE PITCHER.
TONK
KUMADE RUSHED FOR-WARD...
...TO GET IT.
SHWUFF
UH-OH...
POP
THE NEXT BATTER, KIMI, HIT A FOUL BALL TO THE RIGHT...
THAT MADE TWO OUTS.
PLOP
...WHICH WAS CAUGHT BY HIROSE AT FIRST.


AFTER THAT, BY SOME SUPER-HUMAN EFFORT, HE MANAGED TO PICK UP THE BALL...
WHAP
THOOM
...AND GAVE HIMSELF A BLOODY NOSE.


WHAT THE HECK?!
THAT MADE THREE OUTS.
ONLY TAMADATE DIDN'T RUN.
PLUP
PLUP
HUH?
PHEW... IT'S SO HOT.


...AND THROW IT TO FIRST BASE.
FWIP
WHAP

HE LATER SAID, "IF THE BALL YOU HIT DOESN'T GO PAST THE PITCHER, YOU'RE OUT, RIGHT?" WHY HE THOUGHT THAT IS A MYSTERY.

IT TURNED OUT THAT TAMADATE DIDN'T KNOW THE RULES OF BASEBALL VERY WELL.

DID YOU SEE THAT AWE-SOME PLAY I MADE ?

BUT HE MADE SURE EVERYBODY NOTICED.

HA HA HA HA

LIKEWISE...

...NO ONE KNEW WHY KUMADE WAS TRYING SO HARD.

Why is he laughing?

NO, JUST STUPID.

HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA

IS HE CRAZY ?

VIP

MORI-GUCHI...
HUH?

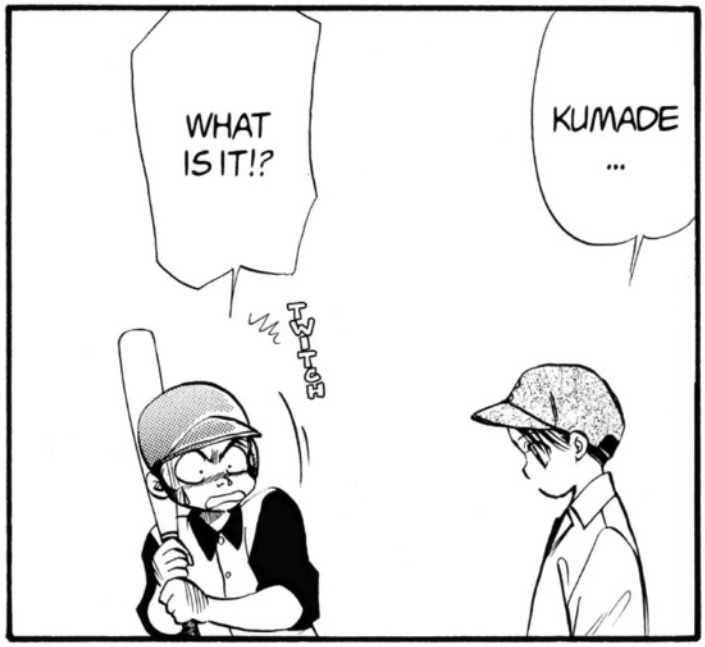
?

THEY MIGHT. THEY SEEM TO BE LUCKY.
I THINK CLASS I IS GONNA WIN.

Minoru

...AND THE STUDENT GOVERN-MENT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
YEAH ...
ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT THE OTHER CLASSES SHOWED UP?

HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS GAME?
WHAT ?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


WHAT IS IT!?
KUMADE ...
TWITCH

A YELLOW CARD?
IF YOU DELAY THE GAME, YOU'LL GET A YELLOW CARD!!
ENOKI, GET IN THE BATTER'S BOX ALREADY!
YAP
YAP

WHY...
...ARE WE PLAYING THIS GAME?
WHA...
WHAT?
A GUY SHOULDN'T MAKE A FACE LIKE THAT!!
SHAKE
SHAKE
OH.
OH.

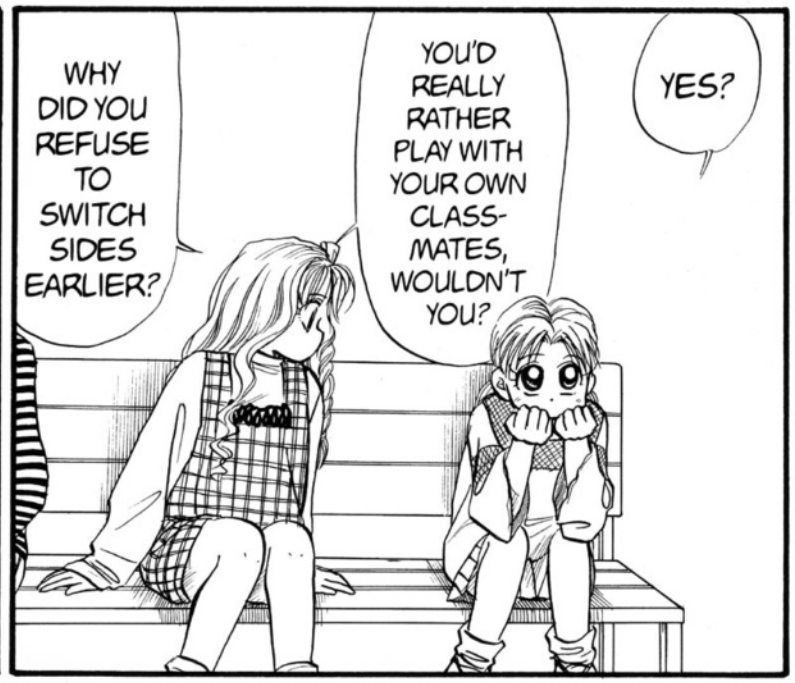
What was wrong with my face?
IS THAT THE ONLY REASON?

THUMP
THUMP

Hey! What are you doing to my son?
I'M PLAYING HARD TO PUT YOU GUYS IN YOUR PLACE! UNDERSTAND?

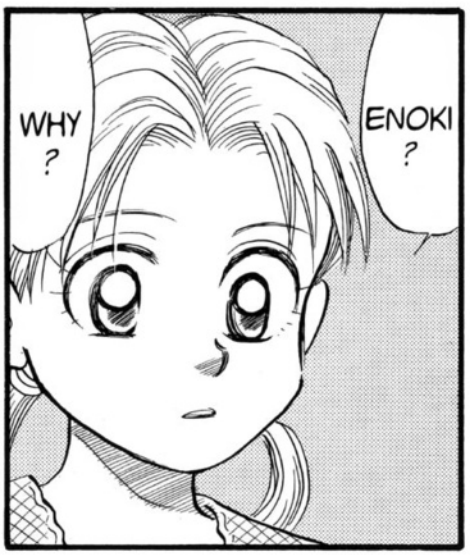
THESE GUYS.
THEY HAVE NO IDEA...
TONK
...WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX.
HE LOOKS LIKE A WILD ANIMAL.
VEEEN
VEEEN
SHI-NAKO...

THEN ENOKI WOULD'VE JOINED OUR TEAM.

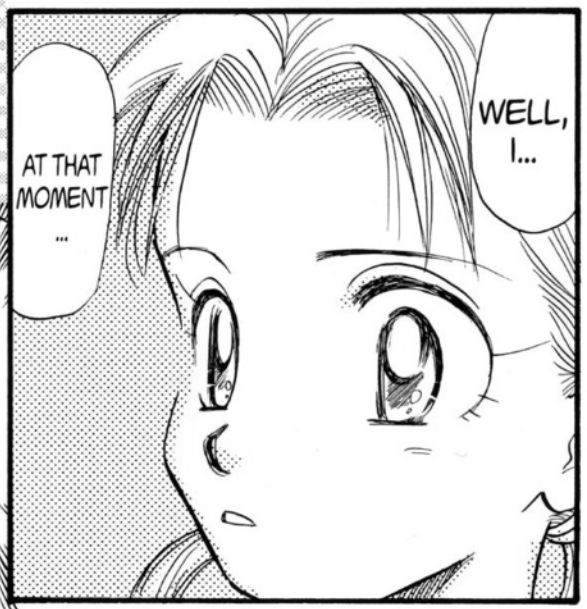

WHY DID YOU REFUSE TO SWITCH SIDES EARLIER?
YOU'D REALLY RATHER PLAY WITH YOUR OWN CLASS-MATES, WOULDN'T YOU?
YES?

I KNOW YOU, FUKAYA.
THAT'S NOT THE REAL REASON.
FUJII AND MORI-GUCHI ARE BETTER.

HE SEEMS TO BE PRETTY GOOD AT BASE-BALL.
WHY?

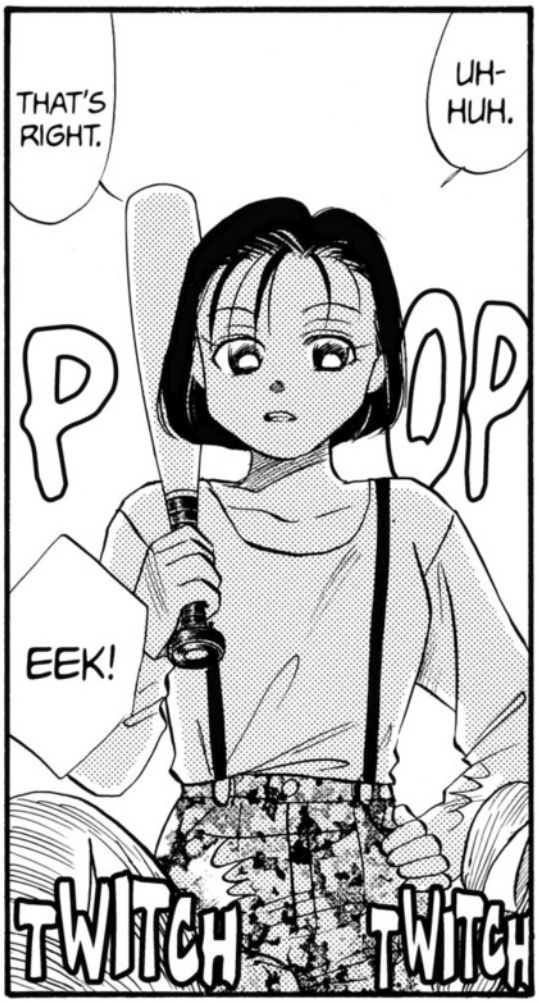

WHY ?
ENOKI ?

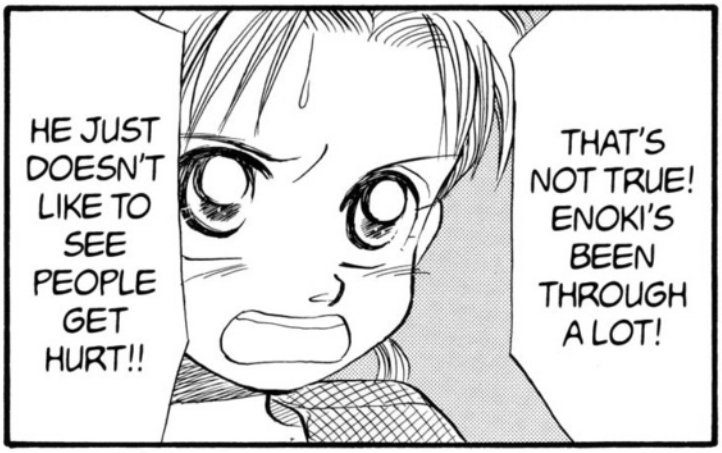
...I JUST ...
... DIDN'T WANT HIM...
FUKAYA'S DOING THE BEST SHE CAN!

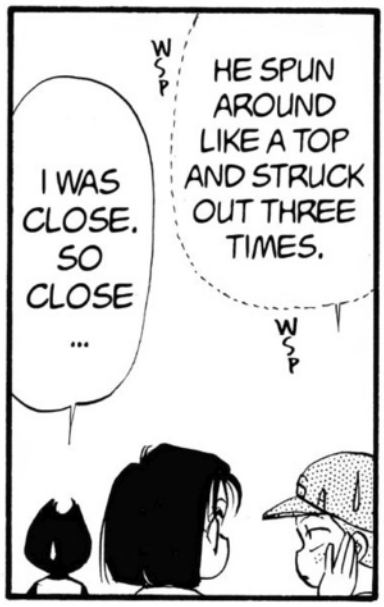

AT THAT MOMENT ...
WELL, I...

...TO BE PUN-ISHED ...
...BECAUSE OF MY MISTAKE.

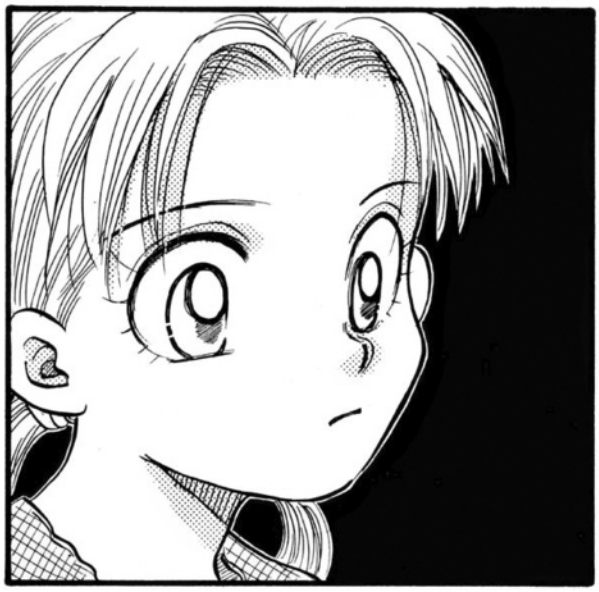
ENOKI MUST BE STUPID ...
...TO TRY TO MAKE EVERY-BODY HAPPY.
WHAT?
GRR

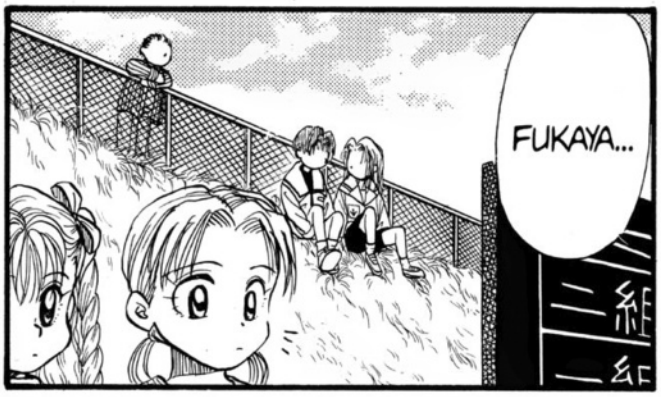

UH-HUH.
THAT'S RIGHT.
POP
EEK!
TWITCH
TWITCH

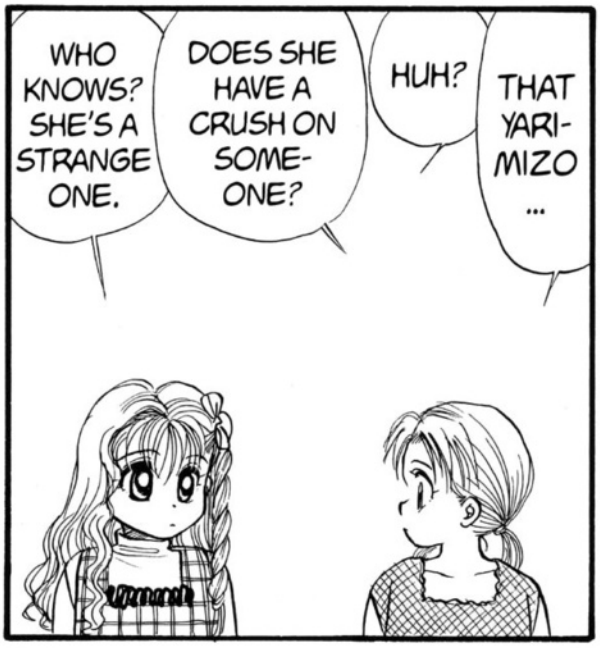

THAT'S NOT TRUE! ENOKI'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT!
HE JUST DOESN'T LIKE TO SEE PEOPLE GET HURT!!


HE SPUN AROUND LIKE A TOP AND STRUCK OUT THREE TIMES.
WSP
I WAS CLOSE. SO CLOSE ...
WSP

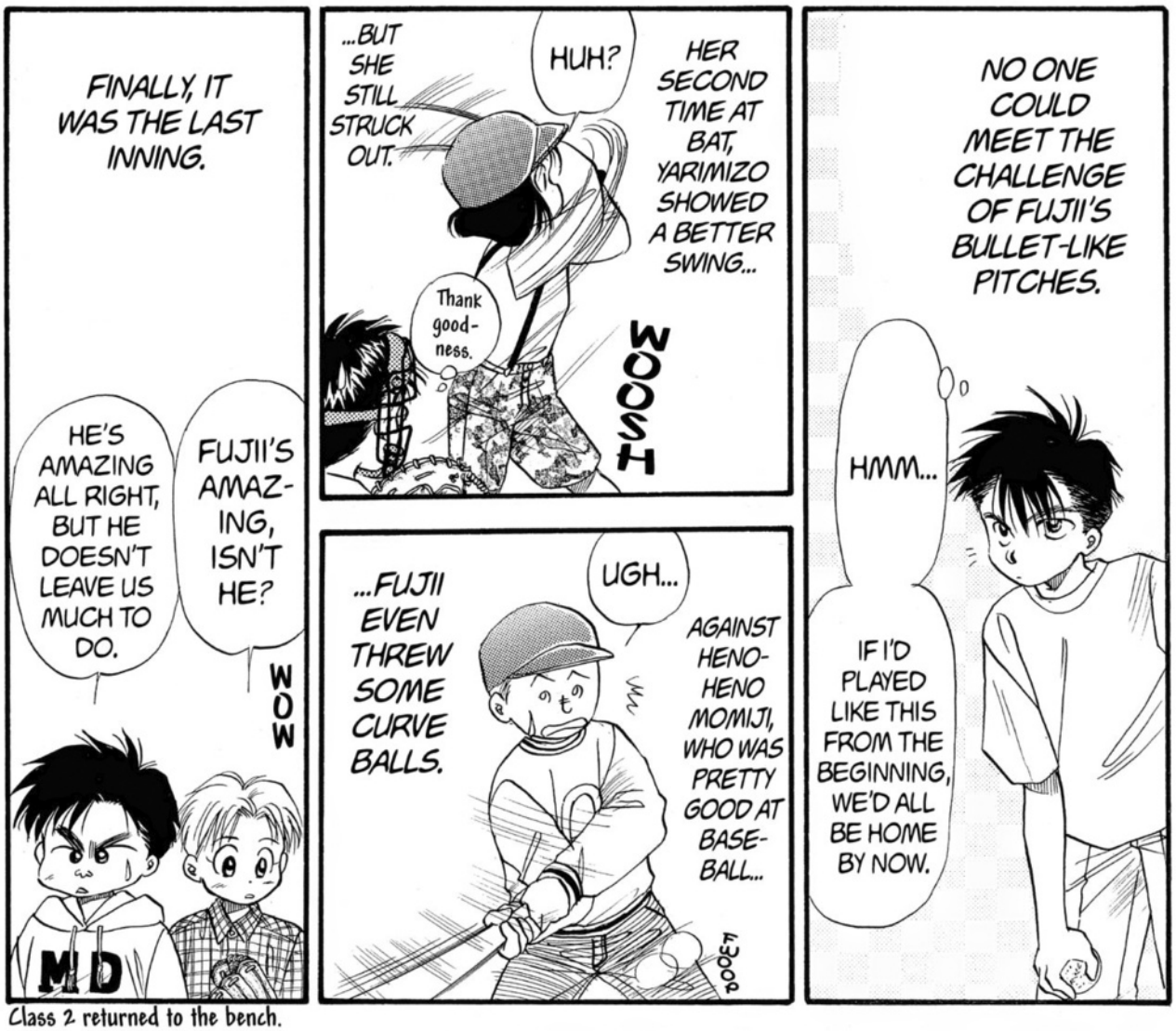
YARI-MIZO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IT'S YOUR TURN!!
WHAT, KUMA-DE?
ARE YOU OUT AL-READY ?
Here.



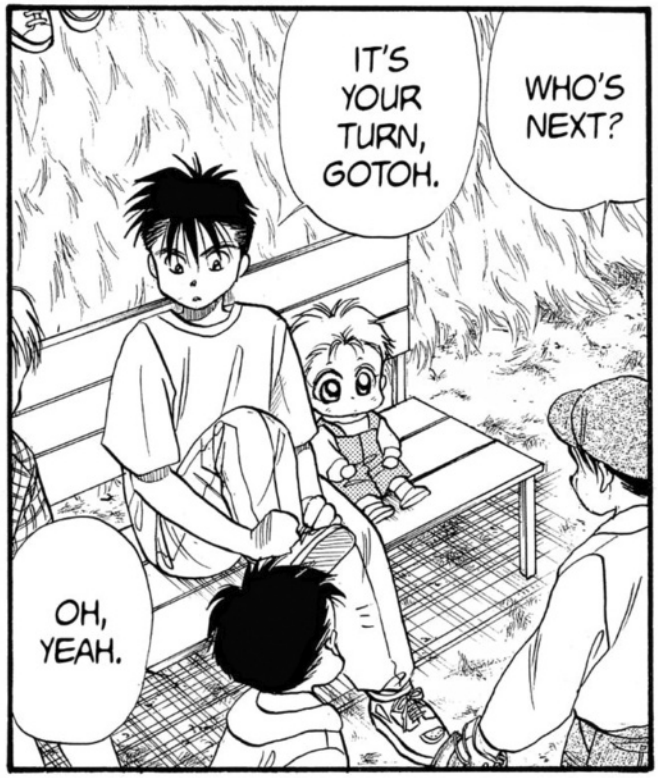

FUKAYA...

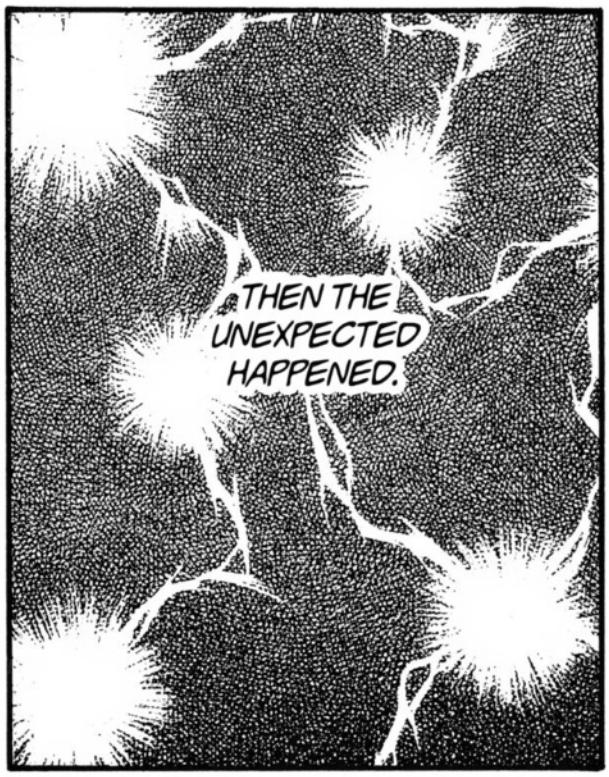

THAT YARI-MIZO ...
HUH?
DOES SHE HAVE A CRUSH ON SOME-ONE?
WHO KNOWS? SHE'S A STRANGE ONE.

ENOKI IS...
...THAT SORT OF PERSON, ISN'T HE?
HE STOOD UP FOR YOU. LUCKY.

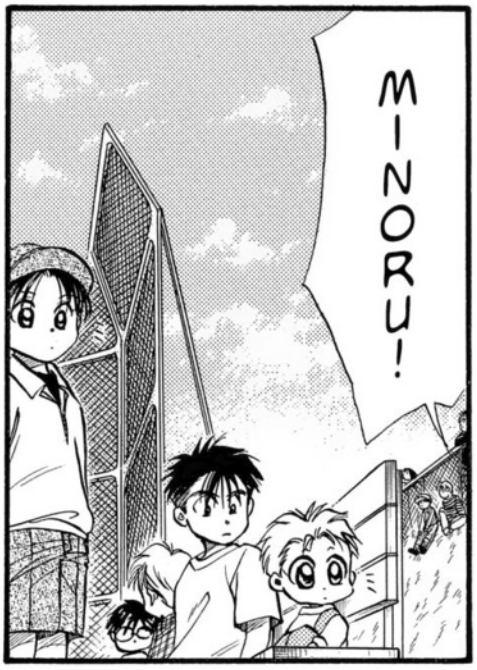


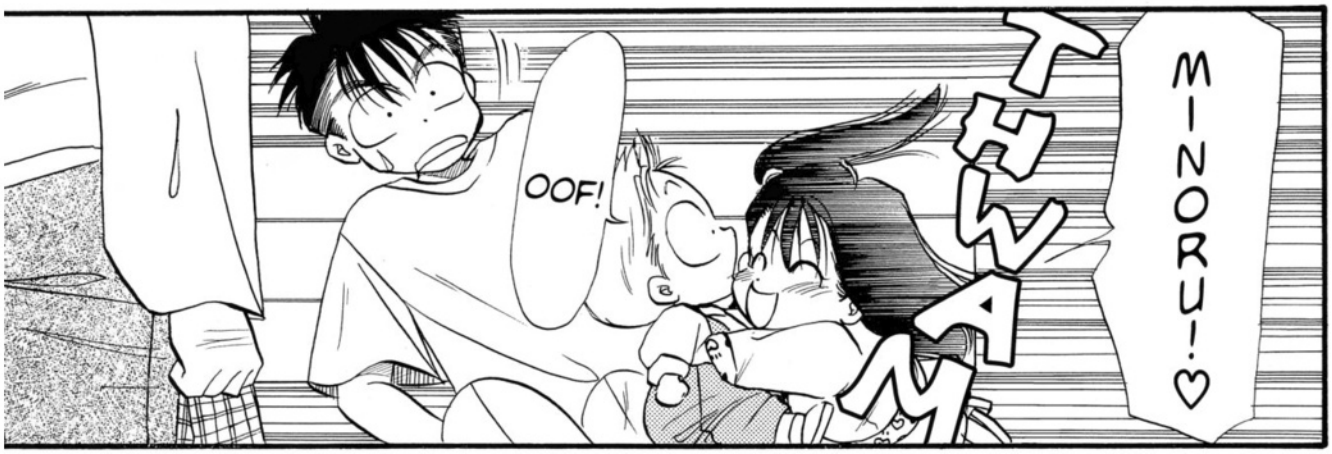
Class 2 returned to the bench.



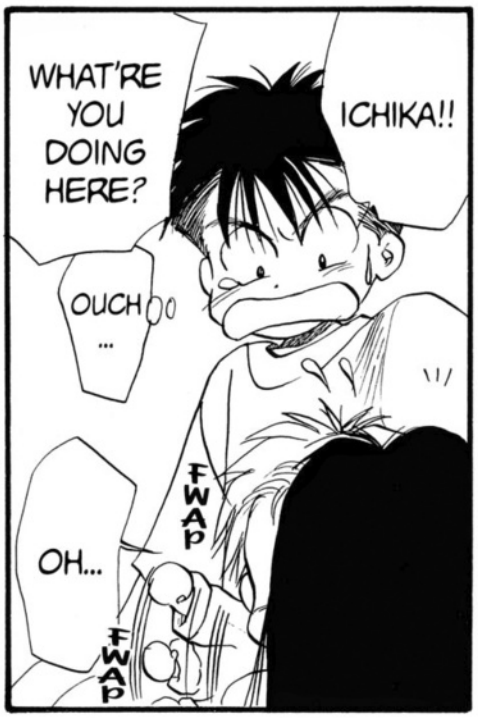


MINORU! ♡

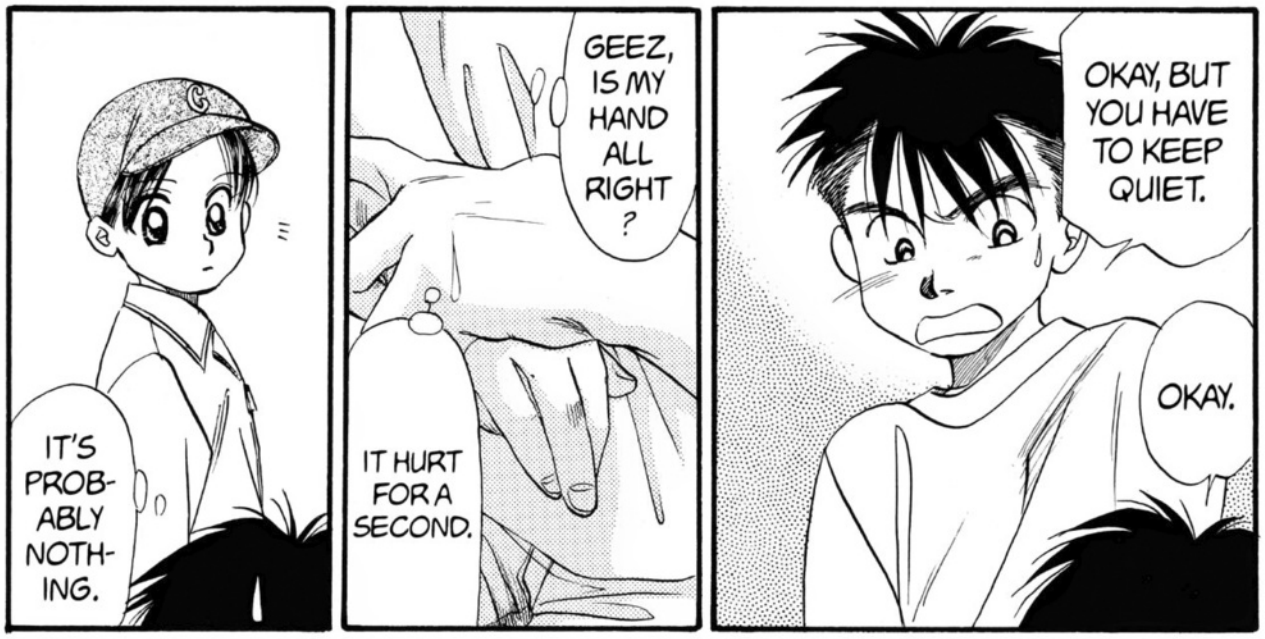

MINORU!

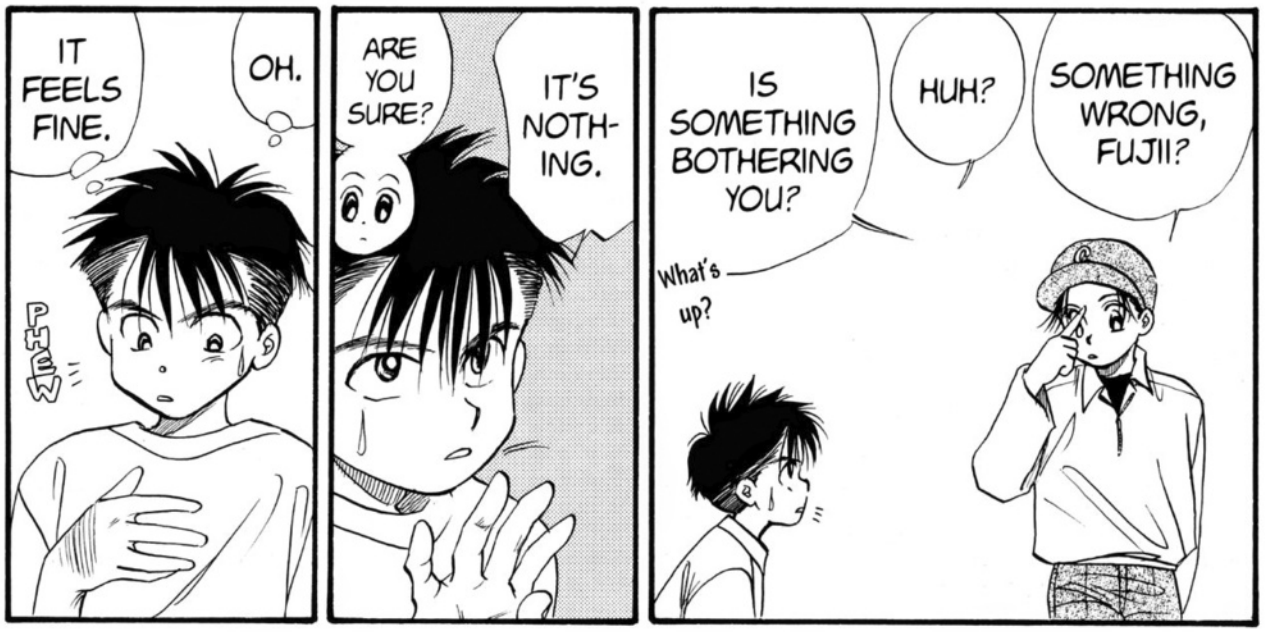

MINORU! ♡
THUMM
OOF!

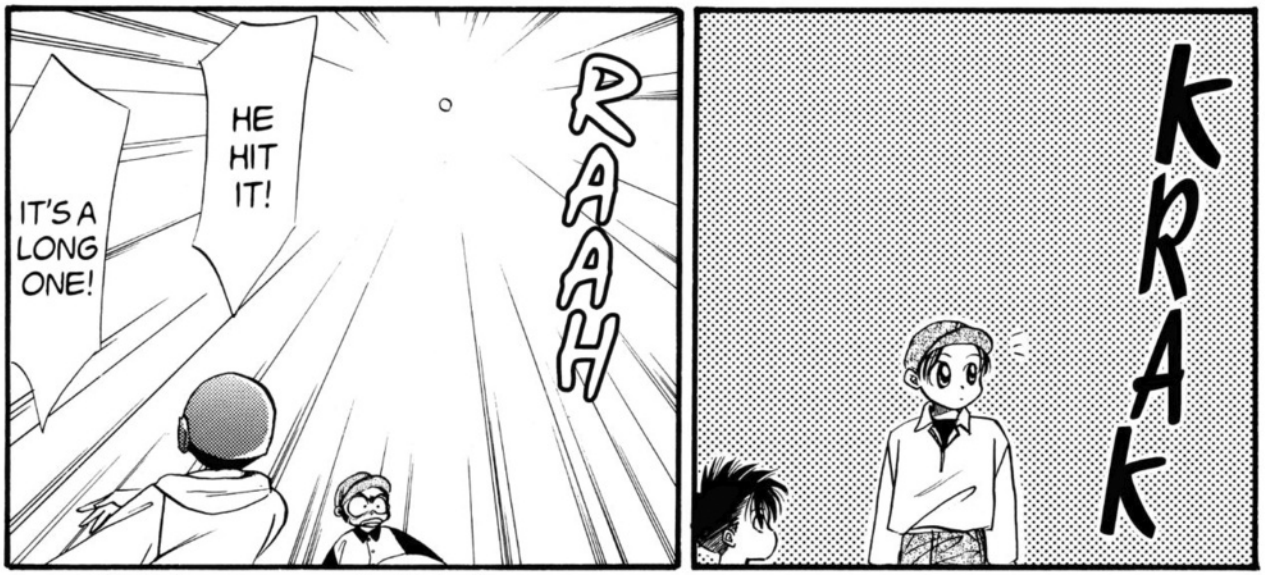
Ma-bo too?
WELL, EVERY-ONE WENT OUT.
ICHI-KA...
TUP
FWAP
FWAP
TUP


WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
ICHIKA!!
OUCH ...
OH...
FWAP
FWAP

KRIK
OW...

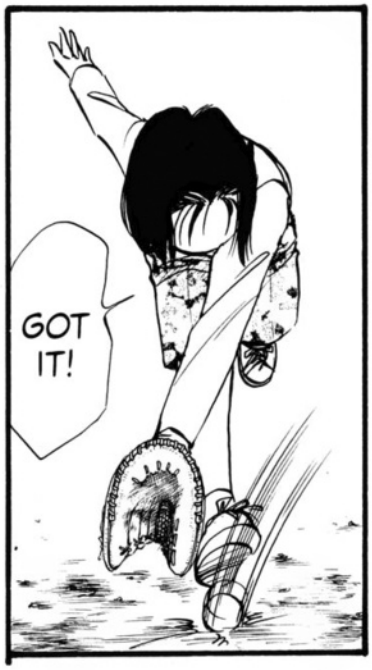


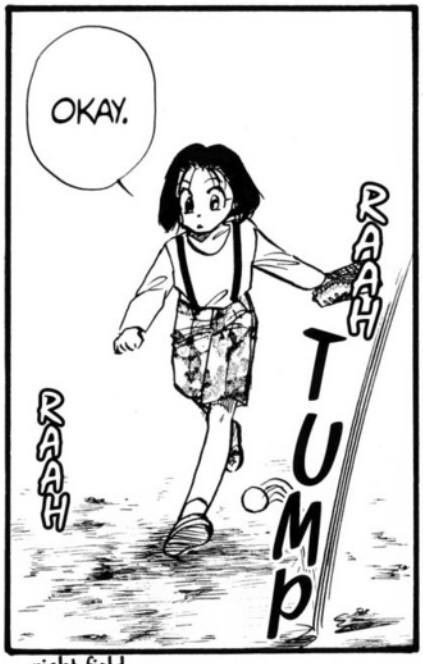




This is Gon.

Mushi's head

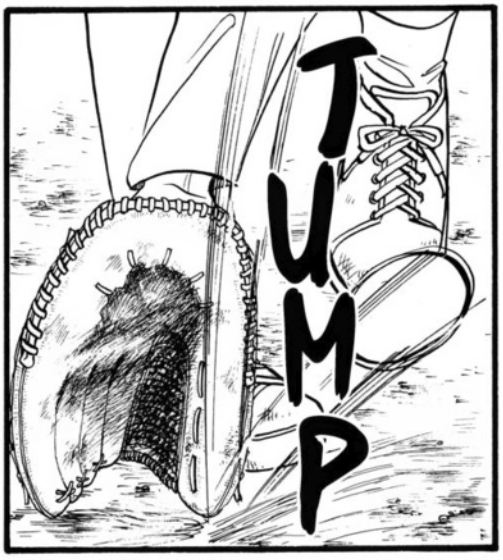

GOT IT!


OKAY.
RAAH
RAAH
TUMP

right field

PEACE.
IT'S A TWO-BASE HIT.
VING
MD

IT BOUNCED FUNNY...
RAAAH


TUMP

KRAK

...

KUMADE AND CLASS I WERE IN A TIGHT SPOT.

SOON THE BASES WERE LOADED AND THERE WERE NO OUTS.

KRAK

I QUIT.

I...

...

WHATEVER HAPPENS, IF YOU GET THE BALL, THROW IT TO HOME.

DON'T WORRY, KUMADE. JUST CALM DOWN AND PITCH.

THAT MEANS NOTHING IF WE DON'T WIN.

HMPH ...

ignoring them

BUT...WE'VE WORKED SO HARD.

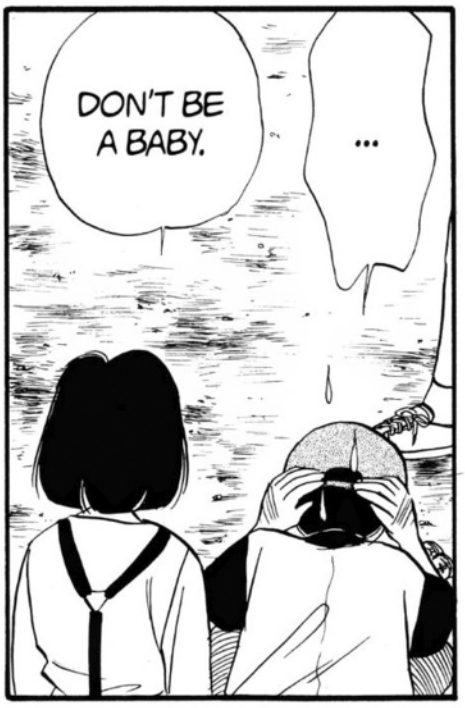
THIS IS NO FUN. THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN WIN.

WHAT ?!

WHAK
USA
VIP

YOU SAY IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING IF WE DON'T WIN?
THAT'S SELFISH!
WHAT ABOUT YOUR TEAM-MATES?

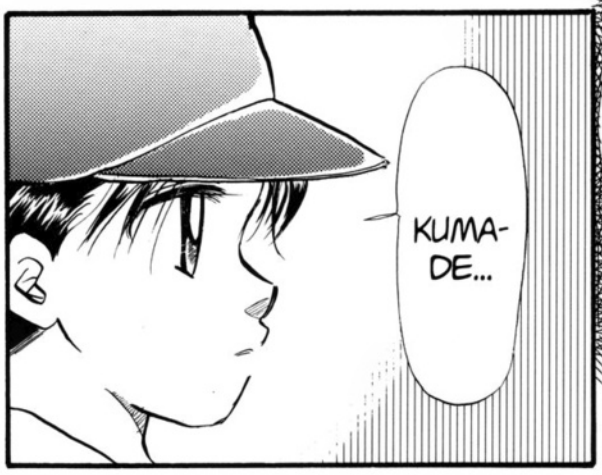
YOU HIT ME. HARD.


DON'T BE A BABY.
...

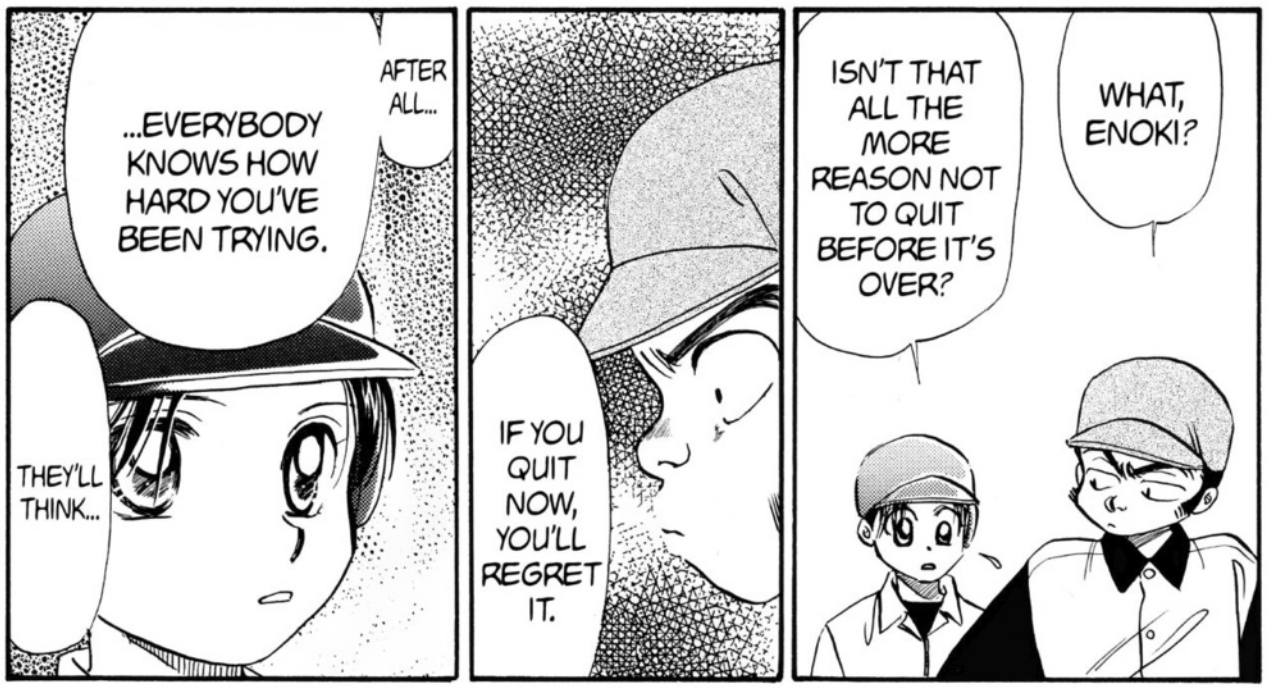
KUMADE, IF YOU GIVE UP NOW...
...YOU'LL NOT ONLY BE THROWING AWAY YOUR OWN EFFORTS...
...BUT YOUR TEAM-MATES WILL SUFFER BECAUSE OF YOU.

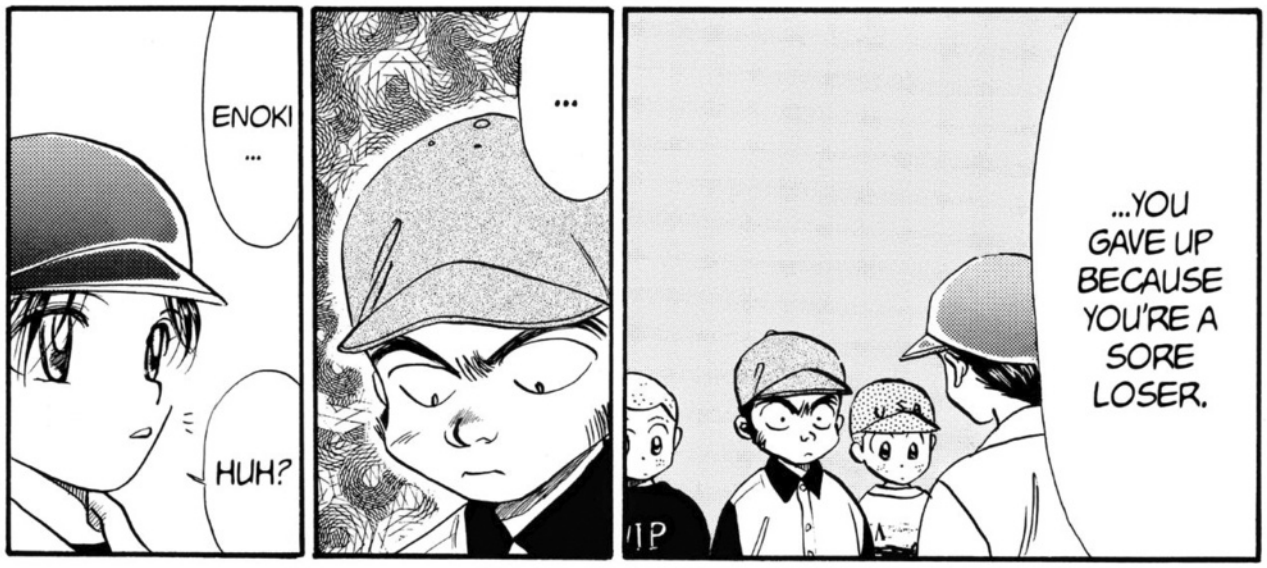
EVERY-ONE'S TRYING SO HARD...
...AND I'VE BEEN YELLING AT THEM FOR MAKING MISTAKES.

BUT...
I-I...


KUMA-DE...

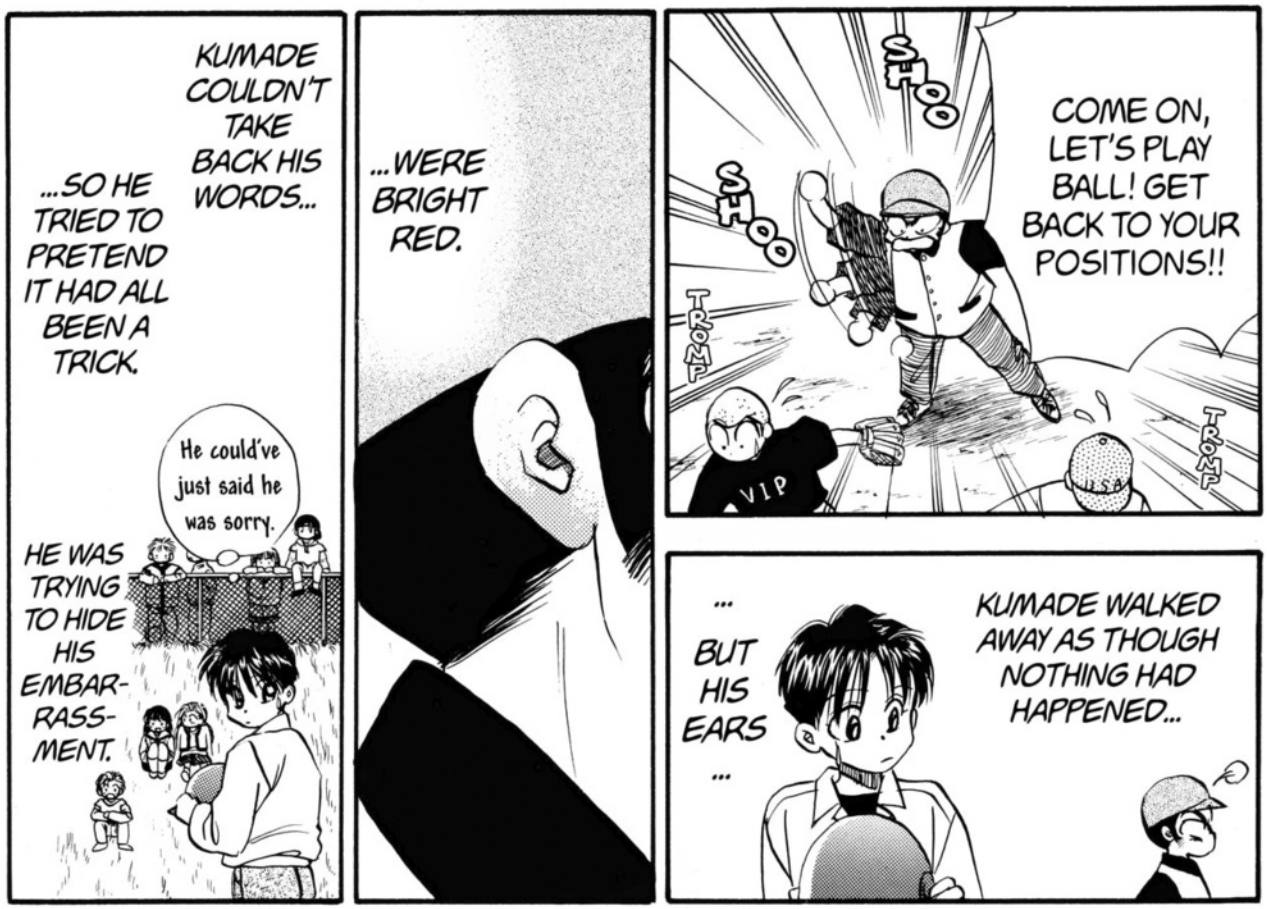
I HAVE TO GET A GRIP...
...OR I'LL BECOME EVEN MORE PATHETIC...


AFTER ALL...
...EVERYBODY KNOWS HOW HARD YOU'VE BEEN TRYING.
THEY'LL THINK...
IF YOU QUIT NOW, YOU'LL REGRET IT.
ISN'T THAT ALL THE MORE REASON NOT TO QUIT BEFORE IT'S OVER?
WHAT, ENOKI?


ENOKI ...
HUH?
...
...YOU GAVE UP BECAUSE YOU'RE A SORE LOSER.
VIP

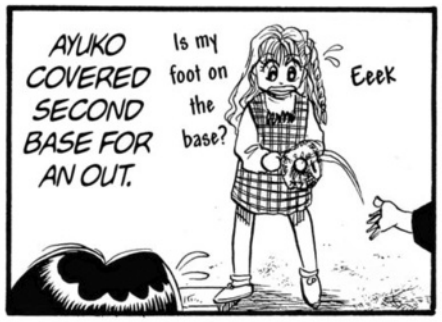
YOU'RE OUT.
VIP

MIGHT RULES IN THIS WORLD!
AND SURPRISE IS THE ULTIMATE WEAPON!
KROOM
GRR
GRR
THAT WAS A DIRTY TRICK, KUMADE...
SHUT UP!
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT. YOU STEPPED OFF THE BASE.
THAT'S ONE OUT!
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH


KUMADE COULDN'T TAKE BACK HIS WORDS...
...SO HE TRIED TO PRETEND IT HAD ALL BEEN A TRICK.
He could've just said he was sorry.
HE WAS TRYING TO HIDE HIS EMBARRASSMENT.
...WERE BRIGHT RED.
SHOO
SHOO
TROMP
TROMP
VIP
U.S.A.
COME ON, LET'S PLAY BALL! GET BACK TO YOUR POSITIONS!!
...
BUT HIS EARS
...
KUMADE WALKED AWAY AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD HAPPENED...

AND HER THROW (MIRACULOUSLY) REACHED FIRST BASE FOR AN OUT THERE.
SWAY
SWAY

...BY LITTLE BROTHER MURATA.
IT WAS CAUGHT ...


AYUKO COVERED SECOND BASE FOR AN OUT.
Is my foot on the base?
Eeek

AFTER THAT, MORIGUCHI HIT A BALL...
...THAT BOUNCED ONCE AND FLEW TOWARD SECOND.
KRAK

THE CLASS 1 TEAM WENT CRAZY, AND THE CROWD WAS GETTING EXCITED.
...IT WAS A DOUBLE PLAY -- FROM SECOND TO SHORT-STOP TO FIRST.
AND ...
USA

RAAH
HANG IN THERE, CLASS 1! TURN THE TABLES ON 'EM!
RAAH
HOLD YOUR LEAD, CLASS 2!

OUCH.
ZING

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS HOLD THEM THIS INNING AND IT'S ALL OVER. LET'S FINISH THIS.
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO CLASS 1? THEY'RE ALL FIRED UP.
WHAP

Minoru

I CAN MAKE IT THROUGH ONE MORE INNING.
OKAY...
GET 'EM, FUJII!

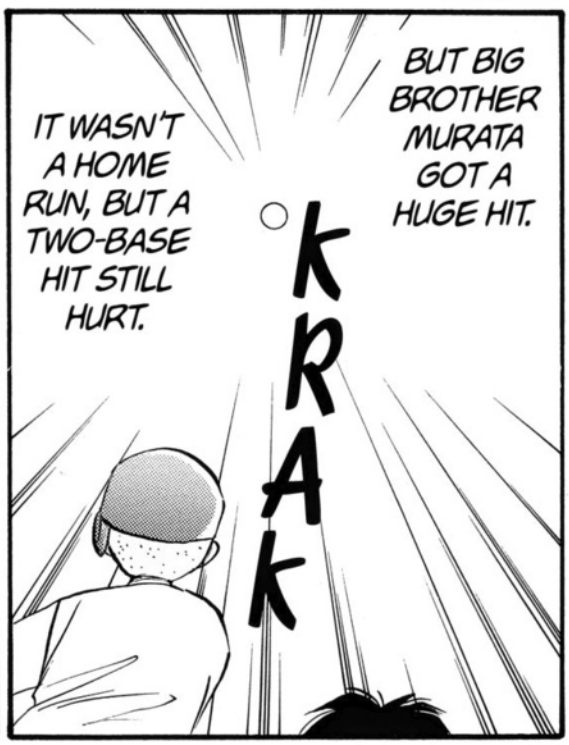
THE NEXT TWO BATTERS, AYUKO AND TSURUNIHA OO MUSHI, WERE OUTS.
WHAP

THE SEVENTH BATTER, LITTLE BROTHER MURATA...
...MANAGED TO HIT HIS WEAKENED PITCH.

OR SO FUJII THOUGHT, BUT...
...HE WAS ONLY HUMAN, AFTER ALL.

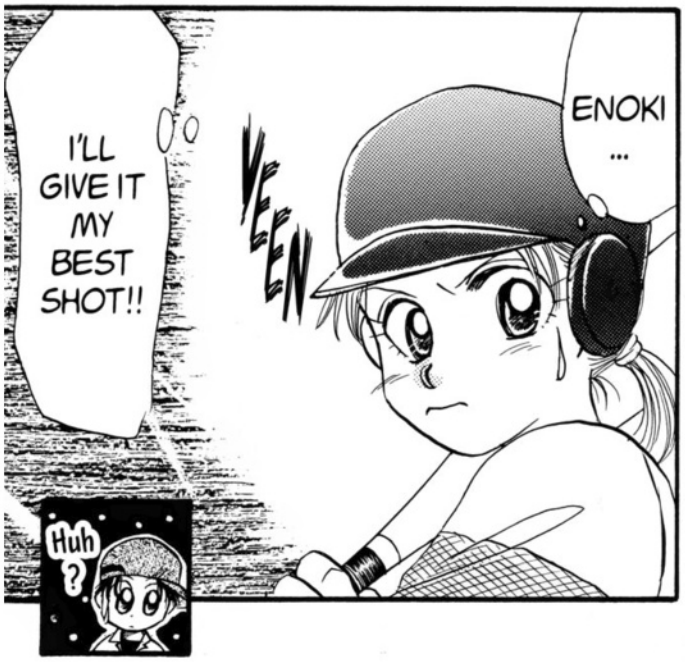
WHAT'S WRONG, FUJII? YOUR PITCHES ARE DOING THIS.
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO LOSE.
HUH?
SWUP

...


BUT BIG BROTHER MURATA GOT A HUGE HIT.
IT WASN'T A HOME RUN, BUT A TWO-BASE HIT STILL HURT.
KRAK

THERE ARE NINE PEOPLE ON A BASEBALL TEAM.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S NOT ALL ON YOU.
UMF.
THUMP

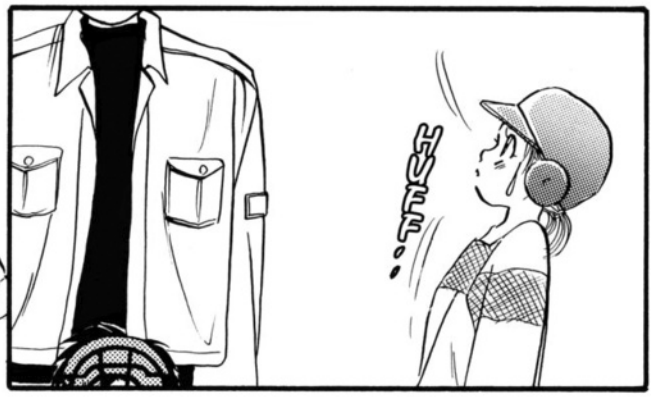
...BUT IT WOULD STILL FEEL BAD TO LOSE.
IT'S JUST A STUPID GAME...


I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT!!
ENOKI ...
VEEN
Huh ?

FUKAYA!

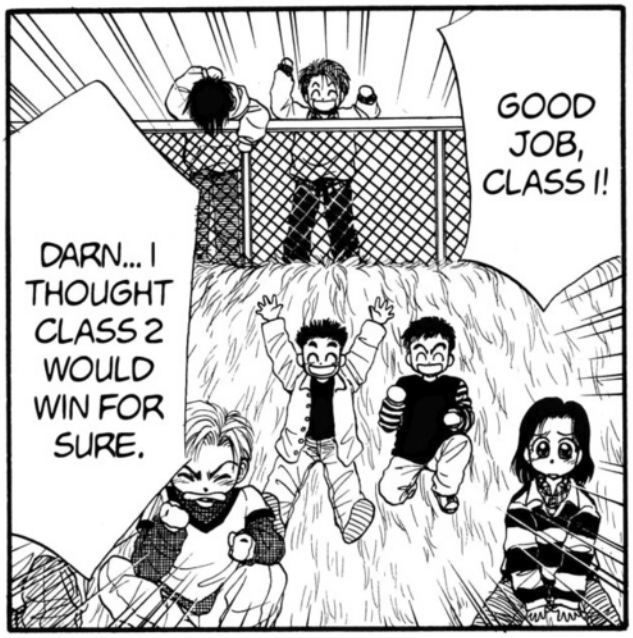
GREAT, MORE PRES-SURE.
YOU HAVE TO GET ON BASE!!
PLEASE!! IT'S ALL UP TO YOU!

WHUP


HUFF.

AGH! SHE'S SWINGING AT THE FIRST PITCH!?
GASP
SHIP
UNH...
ZING
KRAAK
UNGH!
SHOOM
RAAH
THUD
WOB
WOB
HUFF...

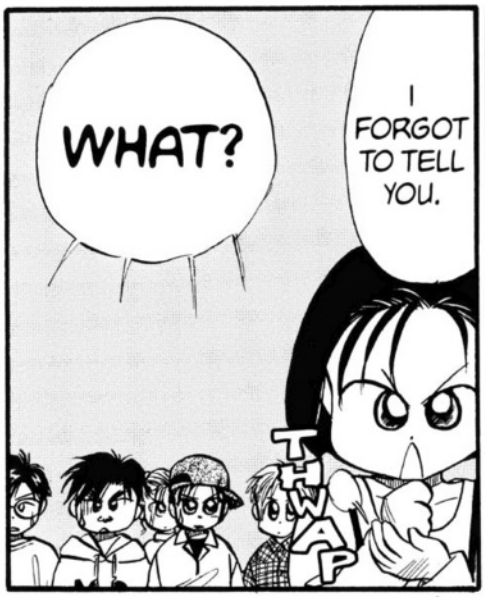
WE DID IT! WE'VE WON!
WHAT?
WHAT?
RAAAH
A HOME RUN! A THREE RUN HOMER!
HUH?
USA
VIP

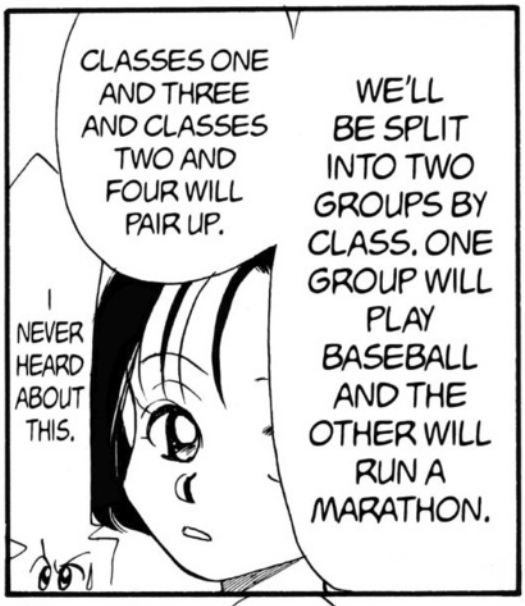

GOOD JOB, CLASS 1!
DARN... I THOUGHT CLASS 2 WOULD WIN FOR SURE.

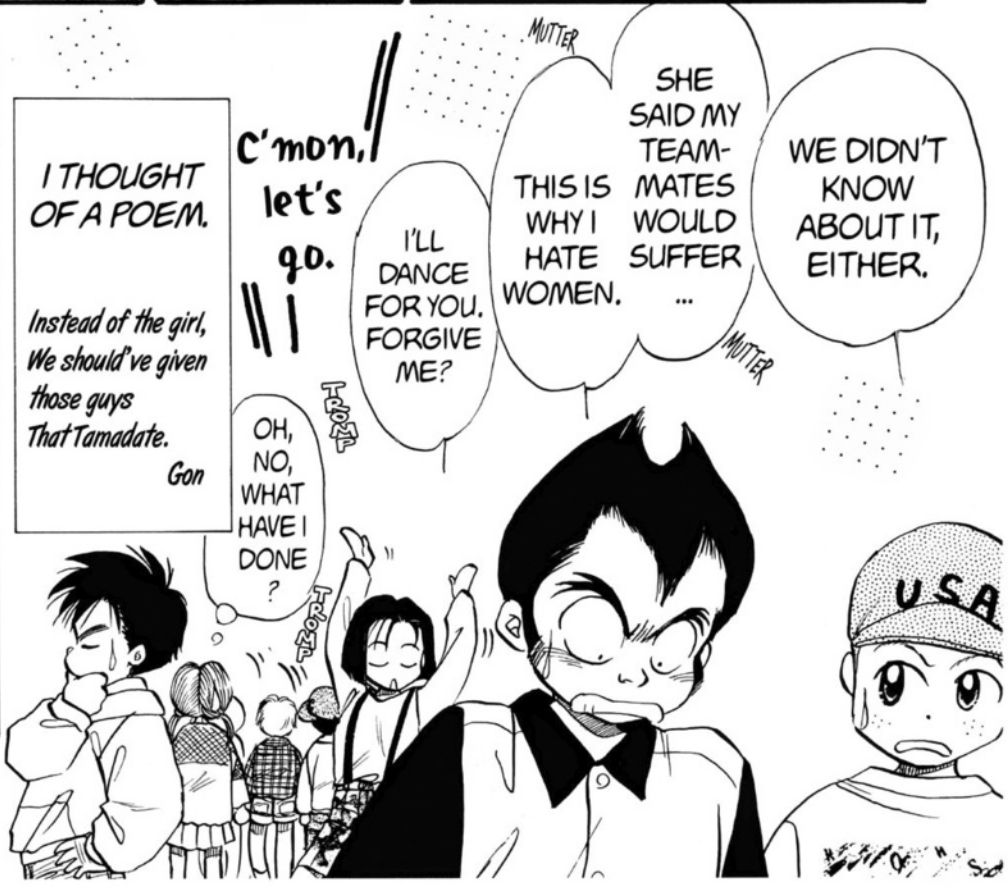
FUKAYA REALLY SLUGGED IT.
HMPH. THEY JUST GOT LUCKY THIS TIME.
...

IT'S OVER! IT'S OVER!
KRASH
WHY ARE THOSE GUYS SO EXCITED?!
KRASH
WHA...?

OH, NO! THE MARA-THON !!
THEY DID IT!
RAAH
!!







Chapter 58 / The End

Marimo Ragawa's Let Me Draw What I Want! By Request

Continued in Part 2

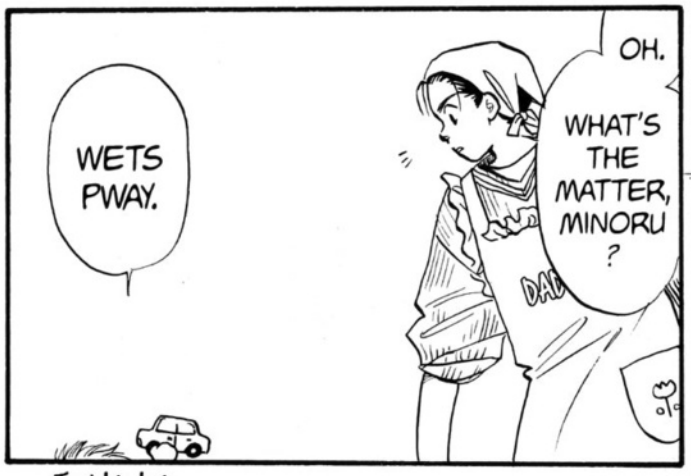
BABY & Me
Chapter 59

Marimo Ragawa's Let Me Draw What I Want! III By Request

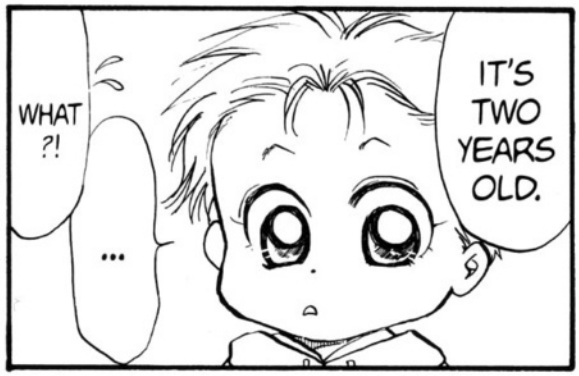
Part 2

Finally, here are some top Korean stars, Seo Tai-ji wa Aidulus. (In Japan they're known as Seo Tai-ji & Boys, I think.) I must apologize to those who made this request. I'm sorry! I've never seen these people. I've only seen them in black and white publicity photos, so I hope I haven't gotten their names wrong. They probably don't even look like this. (Ha ha ha)

Well, see you in Volume 12!!



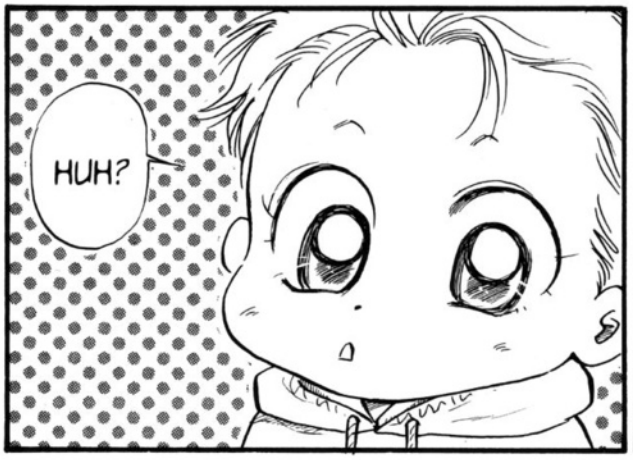
Just his hair



...
BOOM !

BEEP ...
BEEP ...
CAW WECK ...

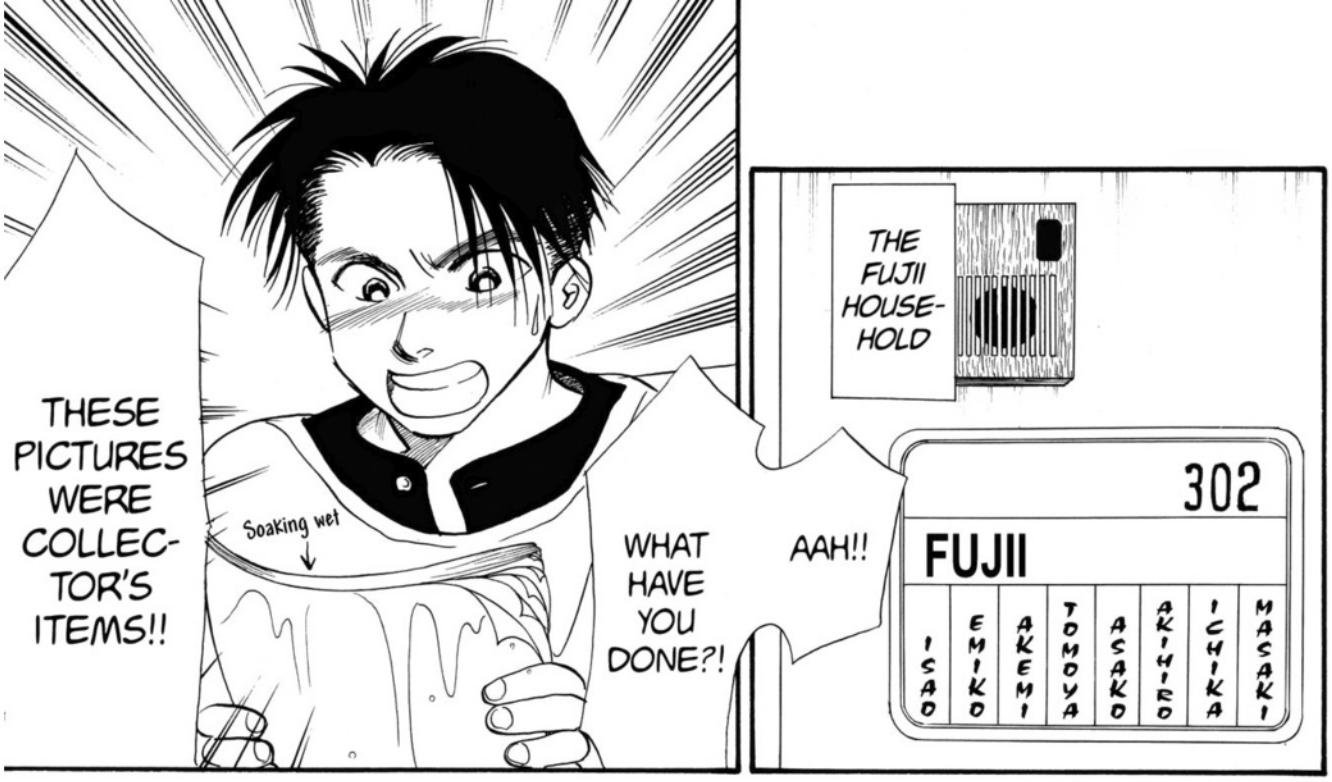
YEAH ?
BWAZA ...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
TOKYO


HUH?

MINO-RU...
HA♡

HE'S MAKING THAT FACE AGAIN.
OH...
HMPH ...

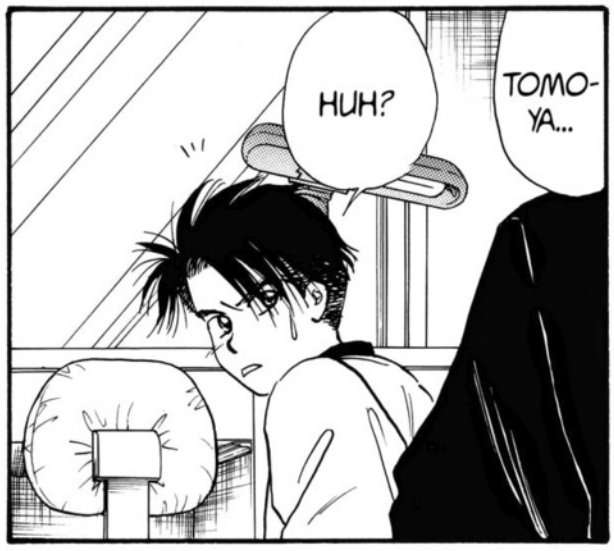
BE A GOOD BOY AND PLAY OVER THERE, OKAY?


THESE PICTURES WERE COLLECTOR'S ITEMS!!
Soaking wet
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
AAH!!
THE FUJII HOUSEHOLD
302
FUJII
ISAO
EMIKO
AKEMI
TOMOYA
ASAKO
AKIHIRO
ICHIKA
MASAKI

TOMOYA, YOU...
WHA...? HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THOSE KIDS?

OOF!
WHAK
BE QUIET!

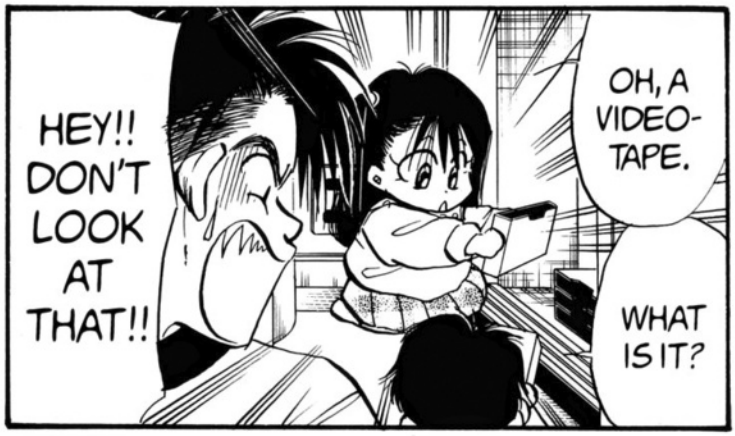
AGH!!
COL-LEC-TOR'S ITEMS?
COL...
YOU TWO DON'T KNOW THE VALUE OF THINGS!


HUH?
TOMO-YA...

THOSE PIC-TURES ARE ART! DON'T MAKE 'EM SOUND DIRTY!
SHUT UP!!
HMPH. YOUR MIND IS ALWAYS IN THE GUTTER.
WHAT IS THIS, ANY-WAY?

AARGH!! MY CD!!
SORRY, TOMOYA.
I STEPPED ON IT.

AARGH!! MY POSTER !!
SORRY.

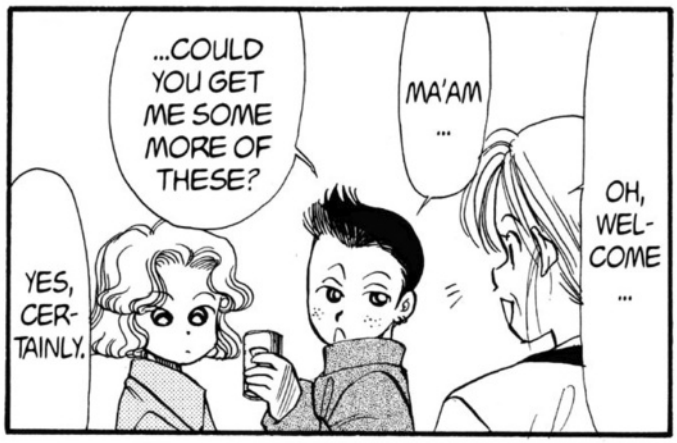

HEY!! DON'T LOOK AT THAT!!
OH, A VIDEO-TAPE.
WHAT IS IT?

YACK
THIS STINKS! I HATE SPRING CLEAN-ING!
I'M NOT GONNA DO IT.
MUTTER
MUTTER
YACK

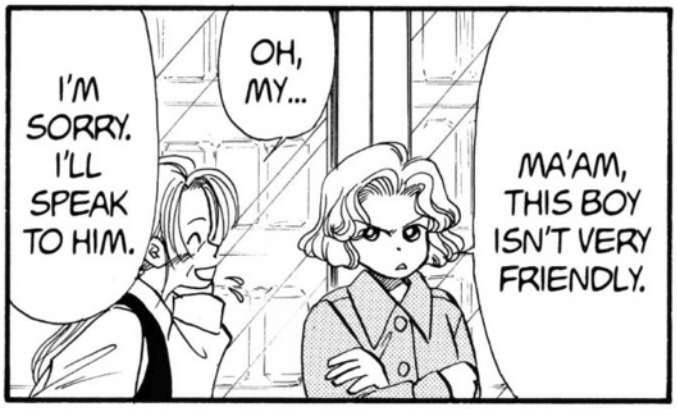
WHAK
UGH!
BE QUIET!

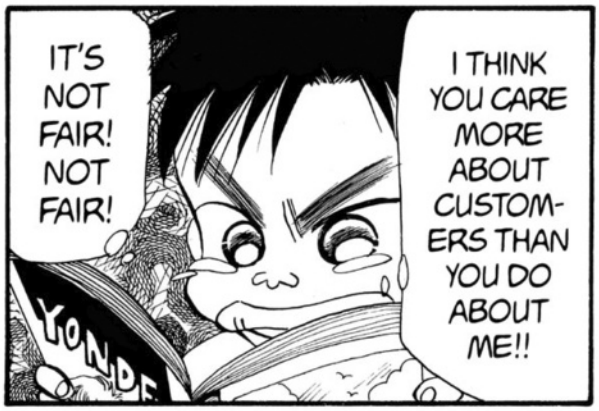
I BET THIS DISK IS NOTHING BUT FILTH.
REALLY ?
ALL YOU THINK ABOUT IS SMUT.
AKIHIRO, WHAT'S DIS?
GO AWAY.

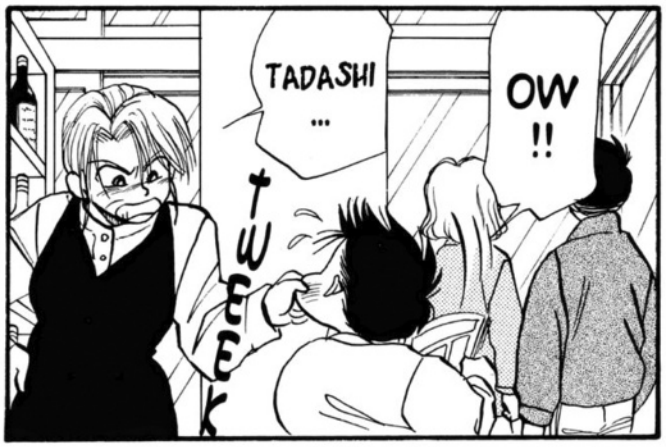
I CAN'T TAKE IT.
MUTTER
MUTTER
WHY DO I HAVE TO MIND THE STORE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE?
OH...
THE GOTOH HOUSE-HOLD
GOTOH LIQUOR
後藤酒店後藤酒店後藤酒店後藤
WHAT? WHY NOT?
WE HAVE MORE BUT THEY'RE NOT CHILLED, MISTER.
MAYBE IN THE BACK?
DO YOU HAVE MANY MORE OF THESE?
DON'T BELIEVE A WORD HE SAYS.
REALLY ?
I WON'T HAVE ANY FUN.
AND THEY'RE ALL LIKE THESE GUYS...
THEN GO ALREADY.
HMPH
THESE LITTLE PLACES JUST CATER TO OLD FOLKS.
GRR
I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO GO TO ONE OF THOSE BIG LIQUOR STORES.


...COULD YOU GET ME SOME MORE OF THESE?
MA'AM ...
OH, WEL-COME ...
YES, CER-TAINLY.

PHEW ...
WHAT A DAY...
TAP TAP
I'M BACK.


OH, MY...
I'M SORRY. I'LL SPEAK TO HIM.
MA'AM, THIS BOY ISN'T VERY FRIENDLY.


IT'S NOT FAIR! NOT FAIR!
I THINK YOU CARE MORE ABOUT CUSTOM-ERS THAN YOU DO ABOUT ME!!


TADASHI ...
OW !!
TWEEK

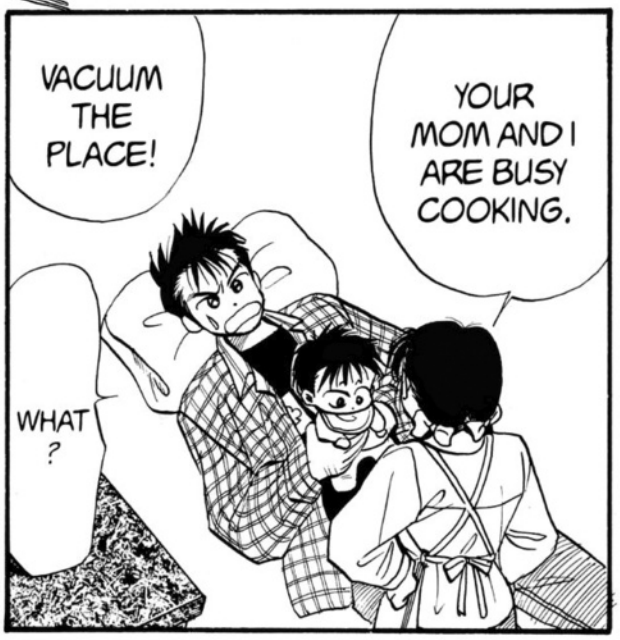
WHY...
...DO I HAVE TO HELP IN THE STORE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE?

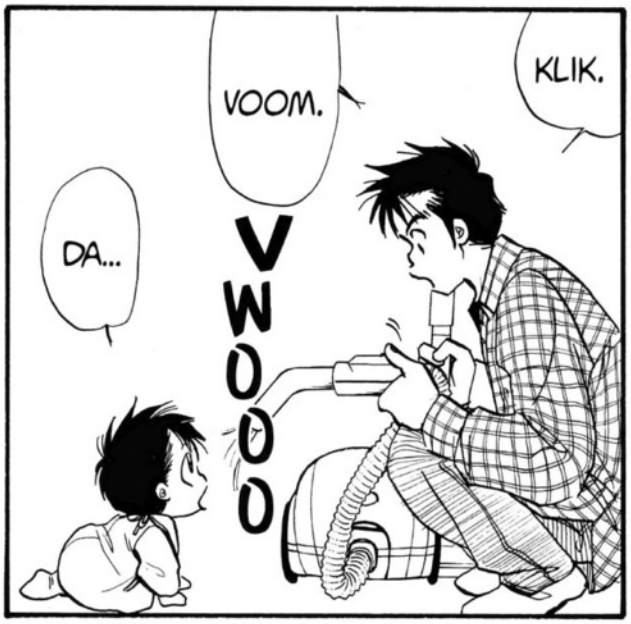
WHY DO YOU KOWTOW TO JERKS LIKE THEM?
OUR CUSTOMERS ARE OUR GODS!!
TOMATO 100%
TOMATO 100%
MILD SQUEEZE
BRISK

THE KIMURA HOUSE-HOLD
SEIICHI !!
DO SOME WORK, WILL YOU?!
rabbit

SHEESH ...
KLAK
KLAK

IT DOESN'T HURT TO VACUUM EVERY DAY!!
BUT WE CLEANED THE WHOLE HOUSE JUST YESTER-DAY.

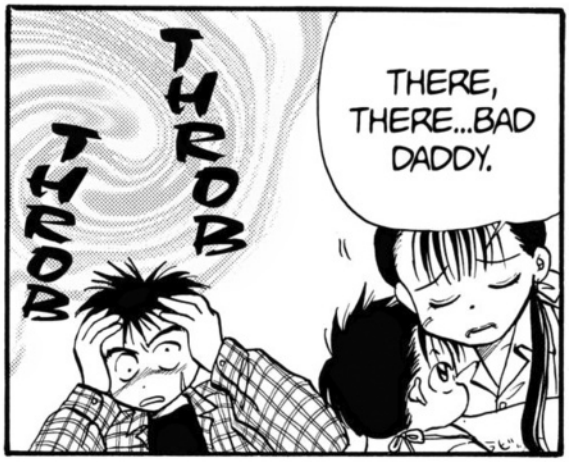

VACUUM THE PLACE!
YOUR MOM AND I ARE BUSY COOKING.
WHAT ?

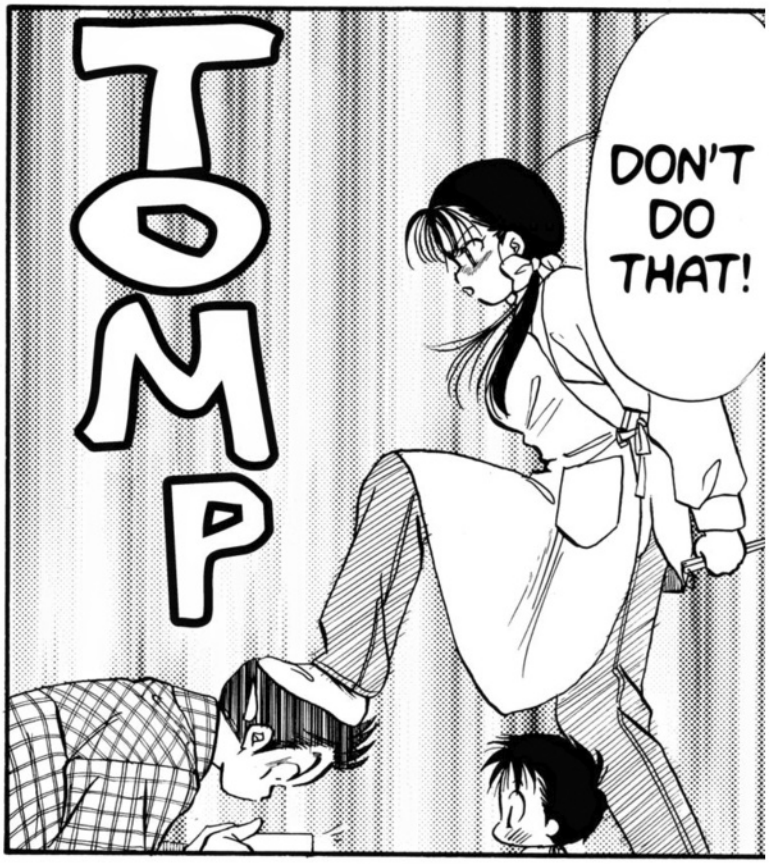

VOOM.
KLIK.
DA...
VWOOO

HEY, TAICHI, DO YOU WANNA PLAY?
GOO ...

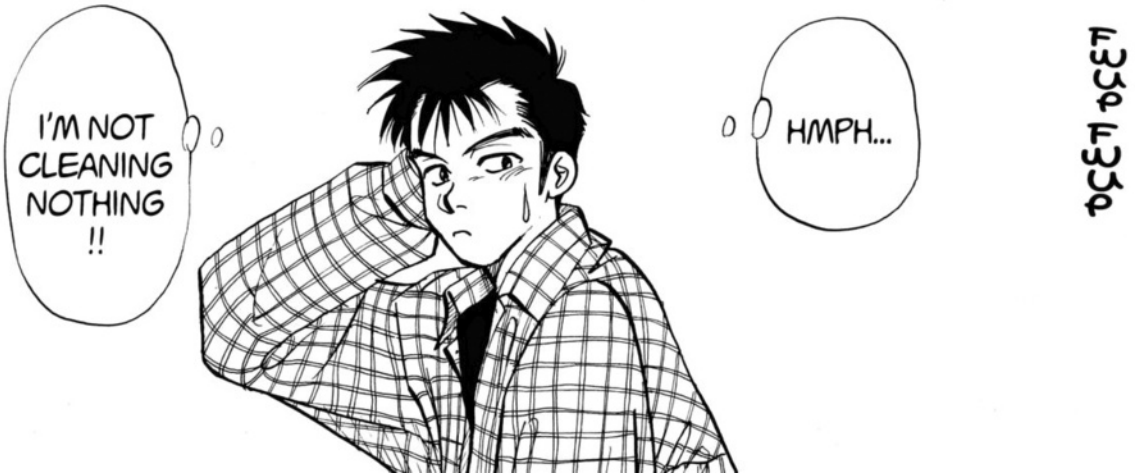
SHUP SHUP SHUP SHUP
HA HA HA HA
DA...

START SUCKING !!
SHWUK
GA-GA?


THERE, THERE...BAD DADDY.
THROB THROB


DON'T DO THAT!
TOMP

DO A GOOD JOB.
OW... MY HEAD HURTS.


HMPH...
I'M NOT CLEANING NOTHING !!
FUUP FUUP

Author's Note: Part 3

A reader inquired what kinds of liquor I like. Well, I mostly drink beer. I don't really care for sake, but I do like "Hi Sour" drinks (shôchu and citrus-flavored soda water.) I'm a cheap drunk. I still drink the same stuff I drank when I was a student.

Corona is my favorite beer.

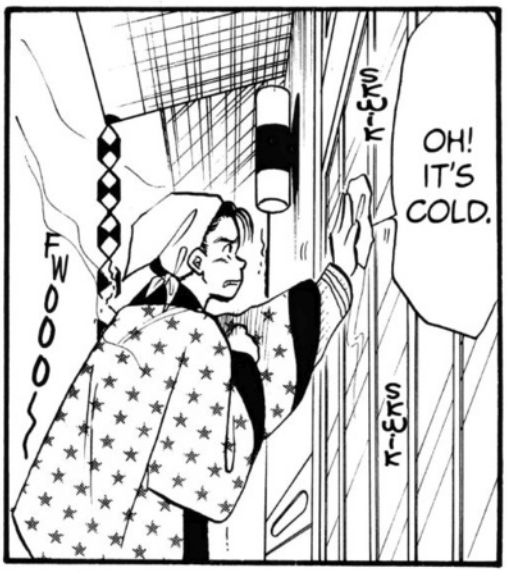
Corona beer comes in bottles. You just drop a wedge of lime into it and drink. I like Budweiser, too. I also like Lime and Lemon Sours. I can drink up to five glasses.

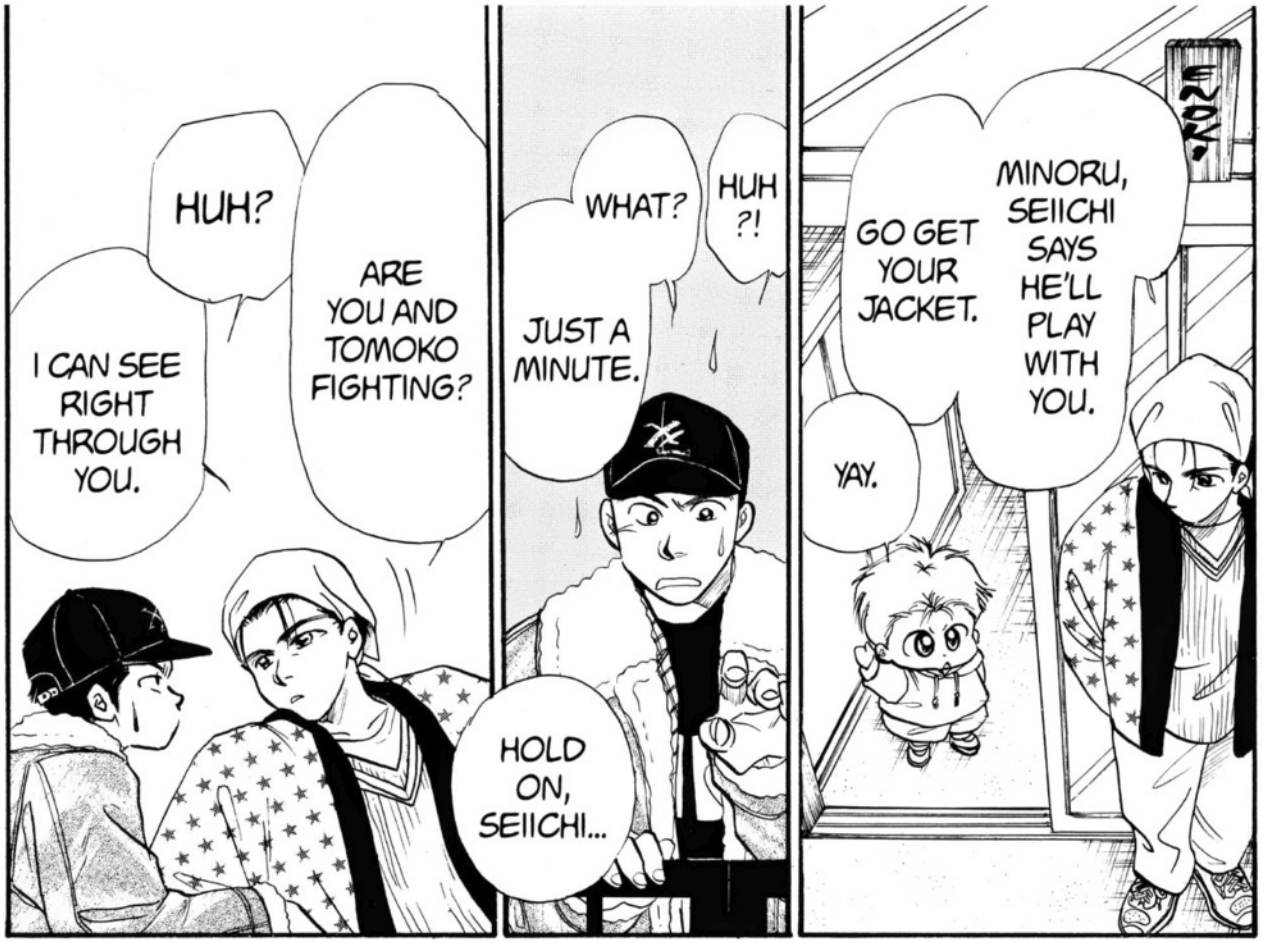
I like sweeter wines, so I prefer reds to whites. Madonna is delicious.

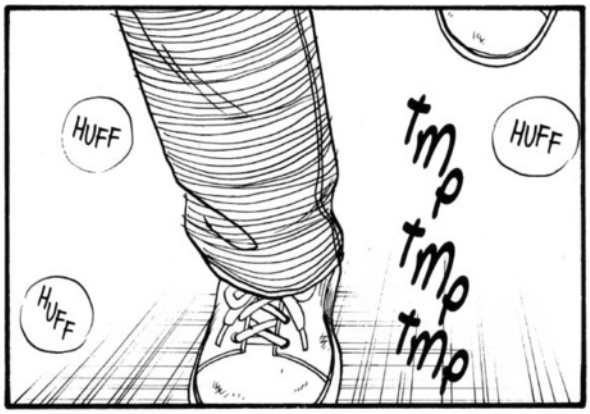
I don't like dry sake--I prefer smoother tasting ones. I like to sip it slowly when it's hot.

I mustn't forget cocktails. I love cocktails. I bought all the equipment to make them, but I have yet to make anything. I even have a cocktail recipe book. But cocktails are high in alcohol, so you can't slam them.

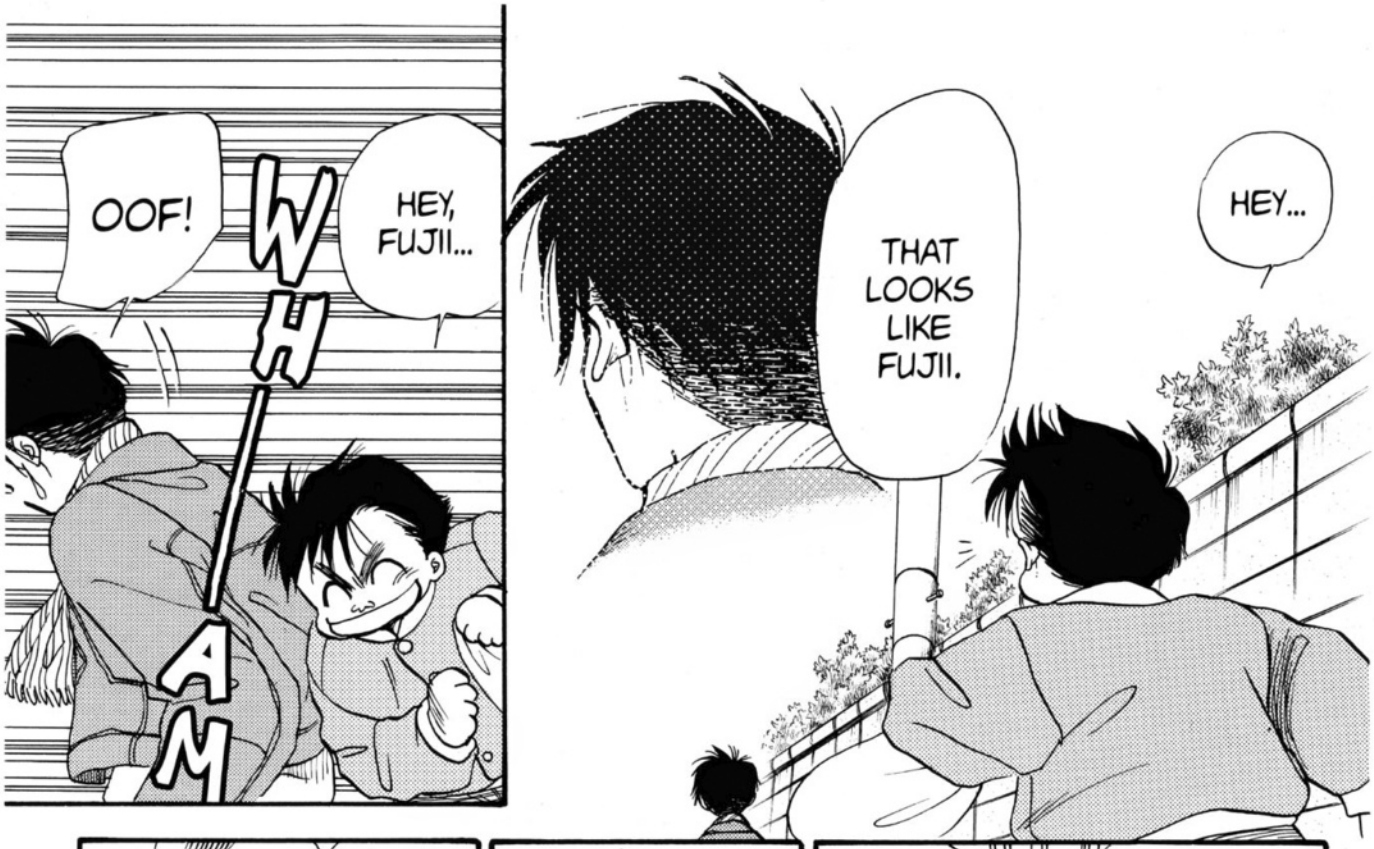
Continued in Part 4...

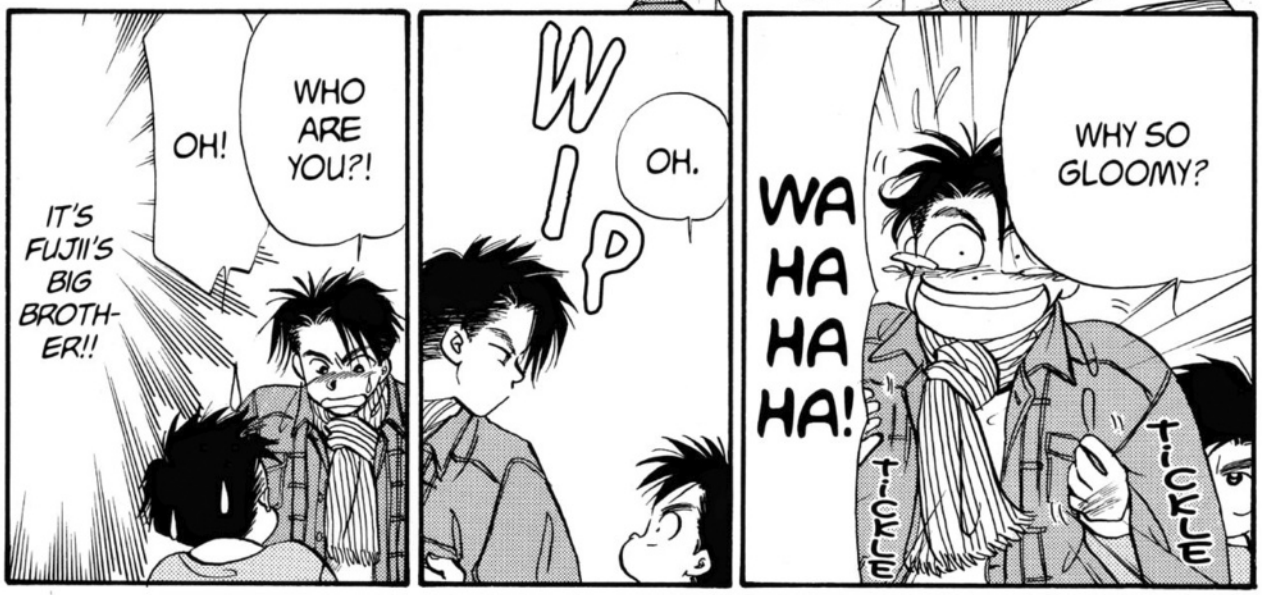


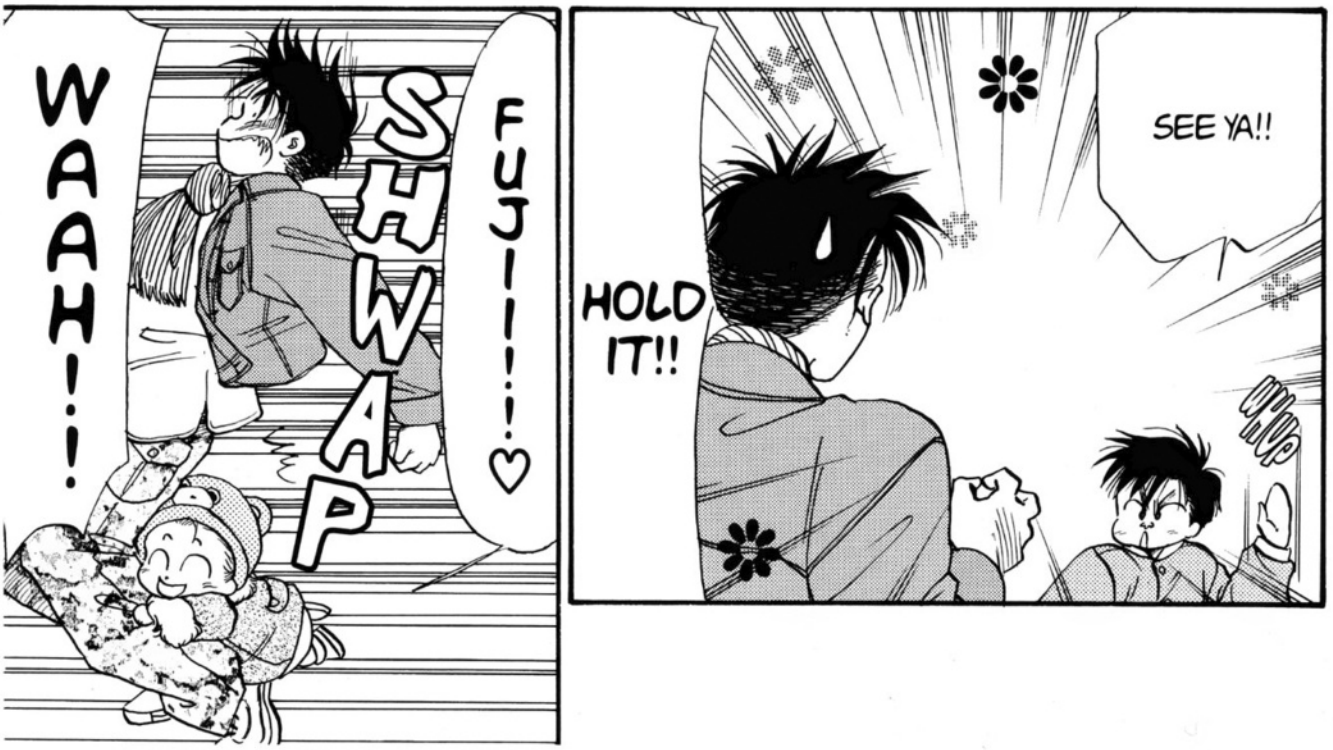




A man bribed with noodles.

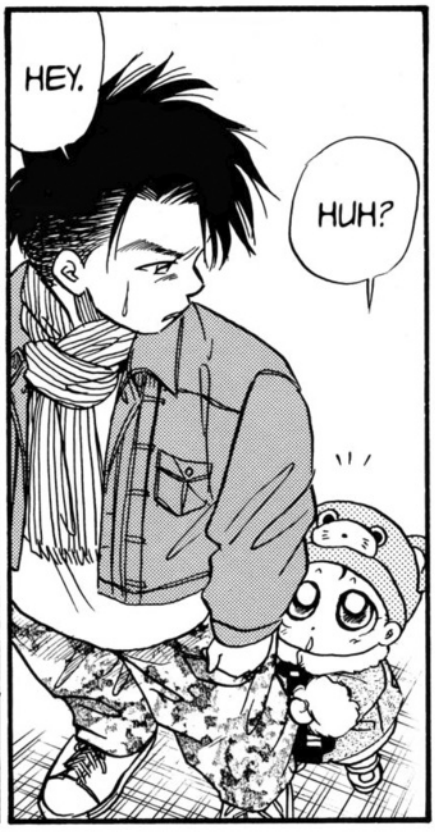

HEY...
THAT LOOKS LIKE FUJII.
HEY, FUJII...
WHAM
OOF!


WHY SO GLOOMY?
WAHAHAHA!
TICKLE
TICKLE
OH.
WIP
WHO ARE YOU?!
OH!
IT'S FUJII'S BIG BROTHER!!


SEE YA!!
HOLD IT!!
WHIP
FUJI!!!♡
SHWAP
WAAH!!

HEY!! WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT KID?
AND IN THE END...
Waah!! Scawy!! Ghos'!!

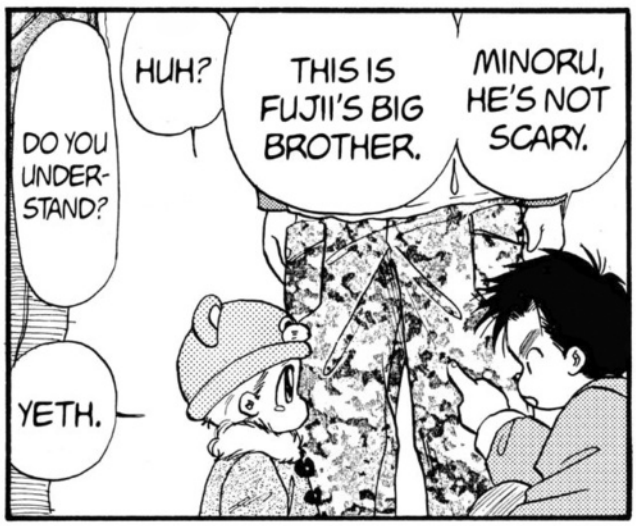
HE NOTICES THAT FUJII LOOKS A LITTLE DIFFERENT TODAY...
...BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW WHY.

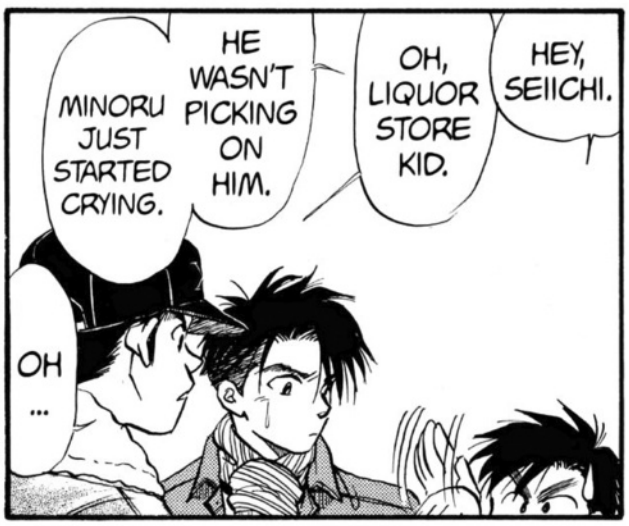

HEY.
HUH?

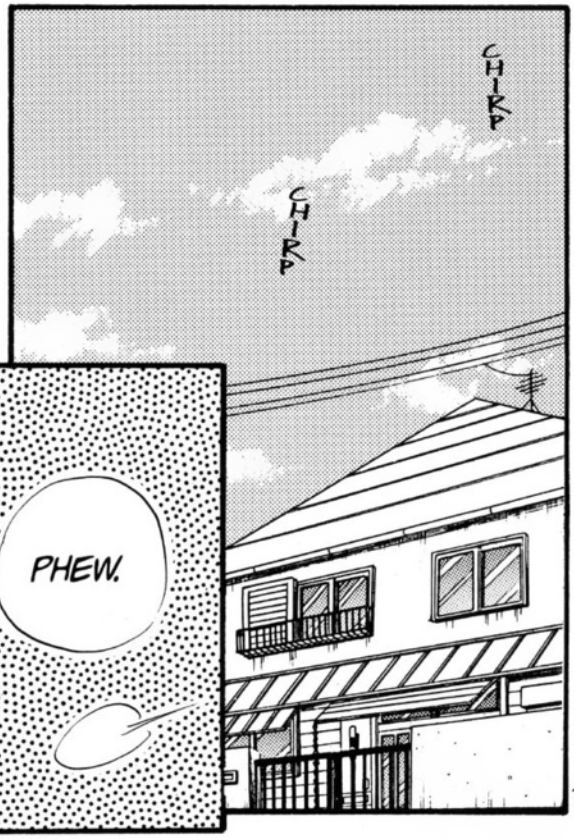
PICK-ING ON HIM?
DON'T BE STUPID, MAN.

I'M NOT A DELINQUENT!! I'M AN UPSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT!!
IS THAT HOW YOU TALK TO YOUR BETTERS?
"MAN"?

...WHY ARE YOU PICKING ON MY LITTLE BUDDY?
HEY, YOU DELIN-QUENT...
OH...


MINORU, HE'S NOT SCARY.
THIS IS FUJII'S BIG BROTHER.
HUH?
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
YETH.

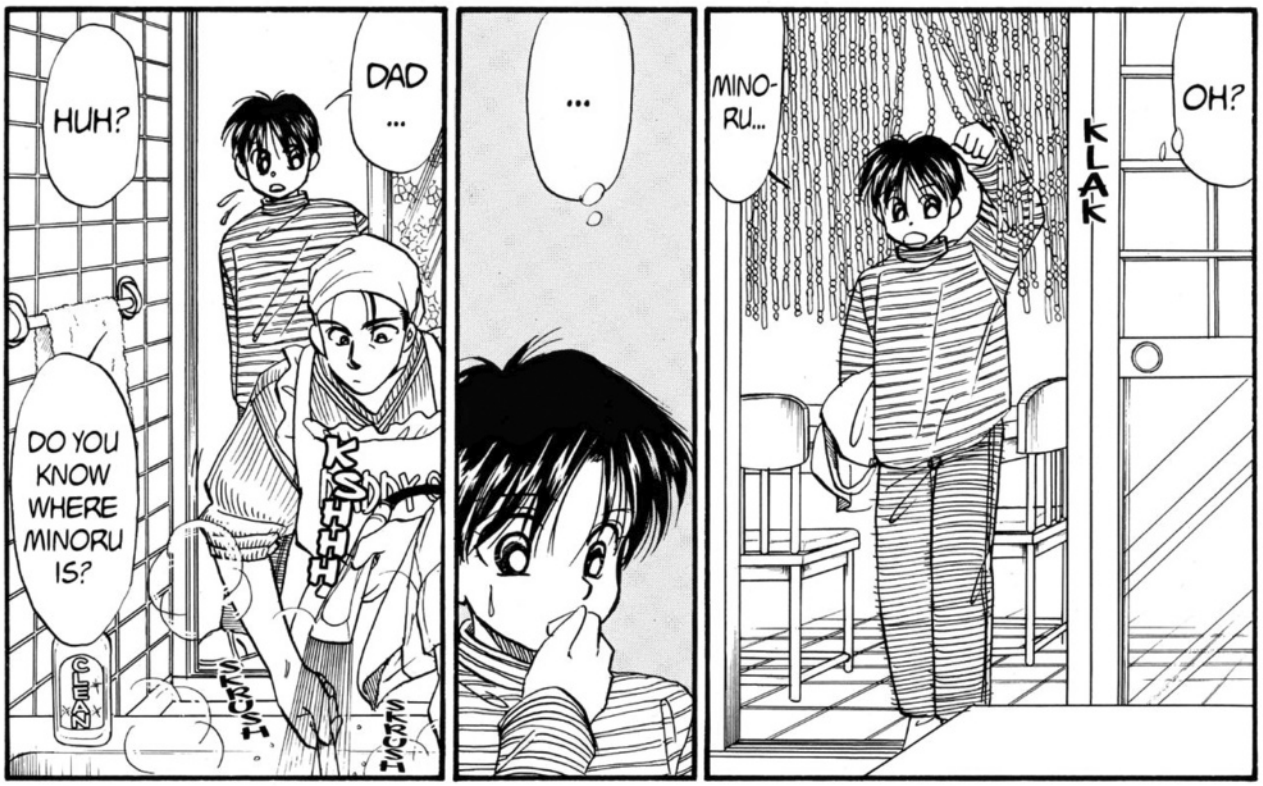

HEY, SEIICHI.
OH, LIQUOR STORE KID.
HE WASN'T PICKING ON HIM.
MINORU JUST STARTED CRYING.
OH ...

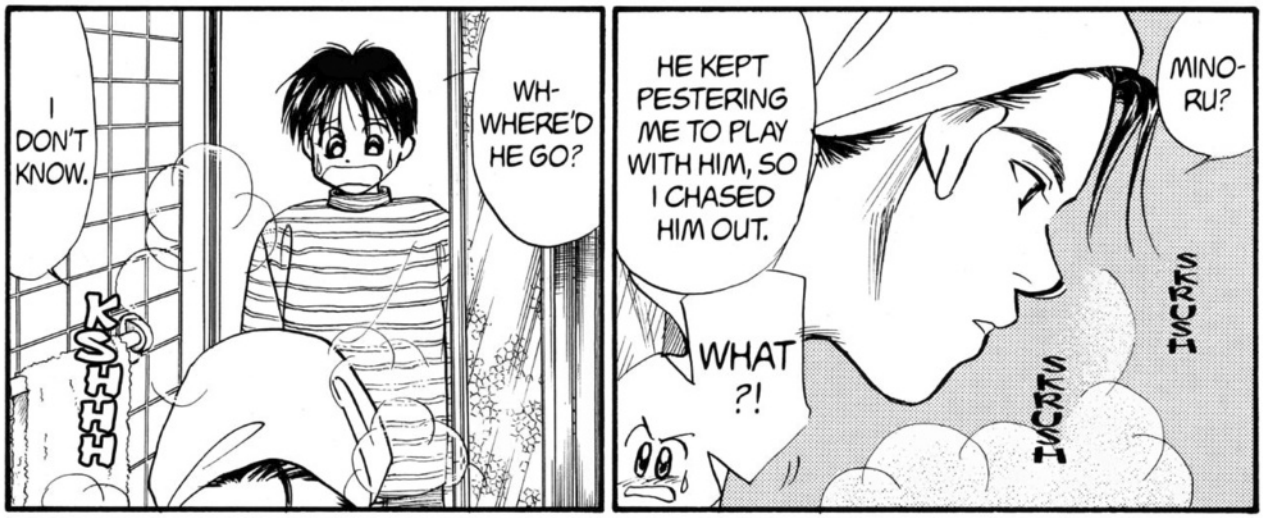

CHIRP
CHIRP
PHEW.

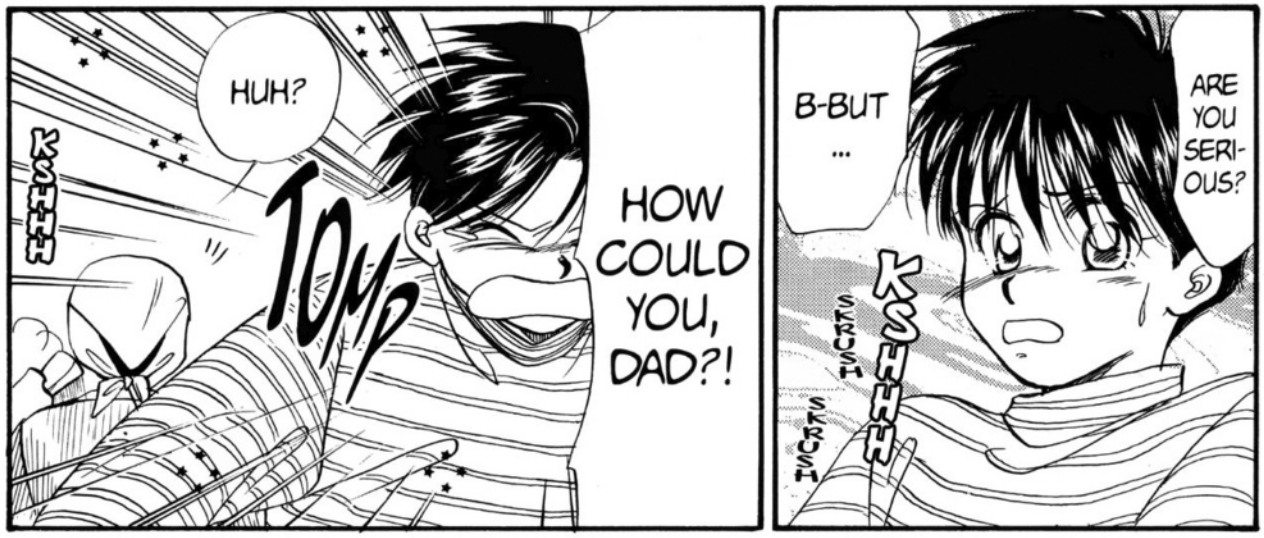
THANK GOOD-NESS.
THAT'S ALL CLEARED UP.
WAIT, YOU GUYS!
HA HA HA

I GUESS I'LL PLAY WITH MINORU NOW.
MINO-RU...

EVERY-THING'S CLEAN.
SHEEN
SHINE


HUH?
DAD ...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE MINORU IS?
KSHHH
SRUSH
SRUSH
CLEAN
...
MINO-RU...
KLAK
OH?

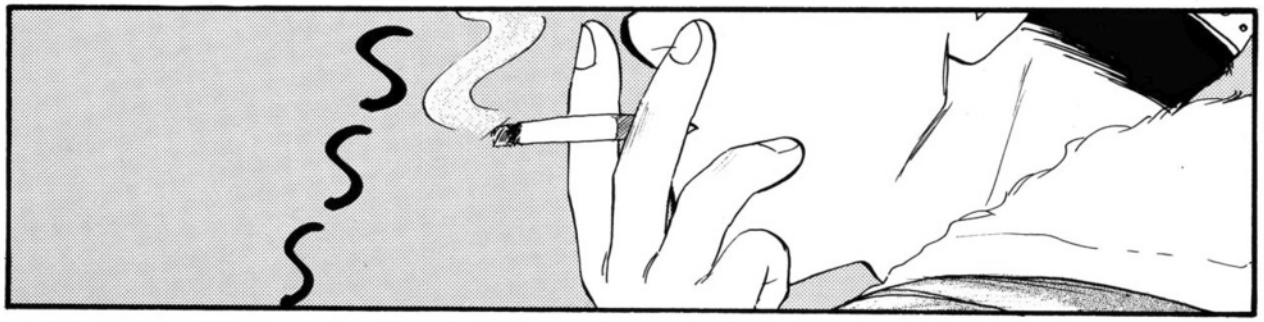

I DON'T KNOW.
KSHHH
WH-WHERE'D HE GO?
HE KEPT PESTERING ME TO PLAY WITH HIM, SO I CHASED HIM OUT.
WHAT ?!
MINO-RU?
SRUSH
SRUSH
SRUSH


KSHHH
HUH?
TOMP
HOW COULD YOU, DAD?!
B-BUT ...
ARE YOU SERI-OUS?
KSHHHH
SRUSH
SRUSH

HOW COULD HE SEND MINORU OUT ALL ALONE?!

SHHK
THIS IS TER-RIBLE!!
HE'S OUT IN THE COLD!

WHAT DID I DO?
KSHHH
DADDY

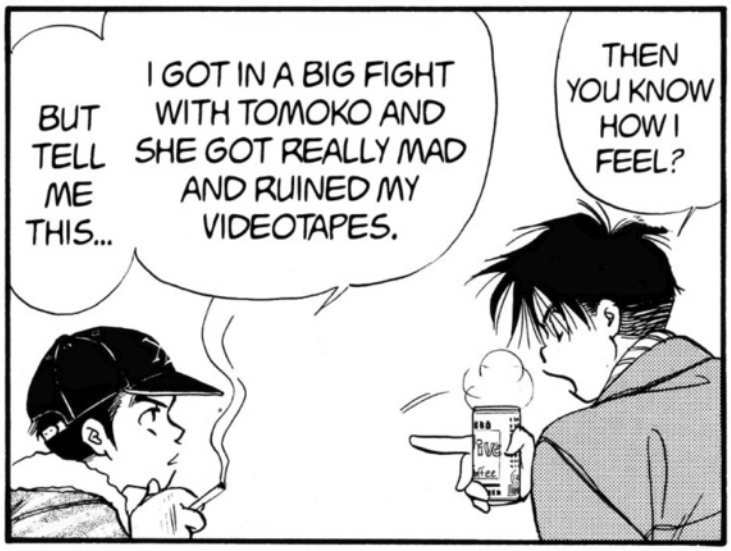

SSS

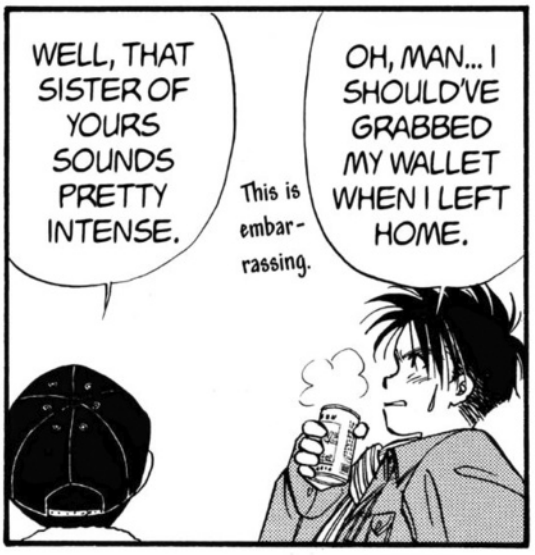
FWOO

WHAT ARE WE DOING, ANYWAY?
MAN ...
OH...
DOUGH-NUTS.
SEIICHI, I'M HUNGRY.

JUST BE GRATEFUL I BOUGHT YOU A COFFEE!
I'M NOT MADE OF MONEY.
FWOO

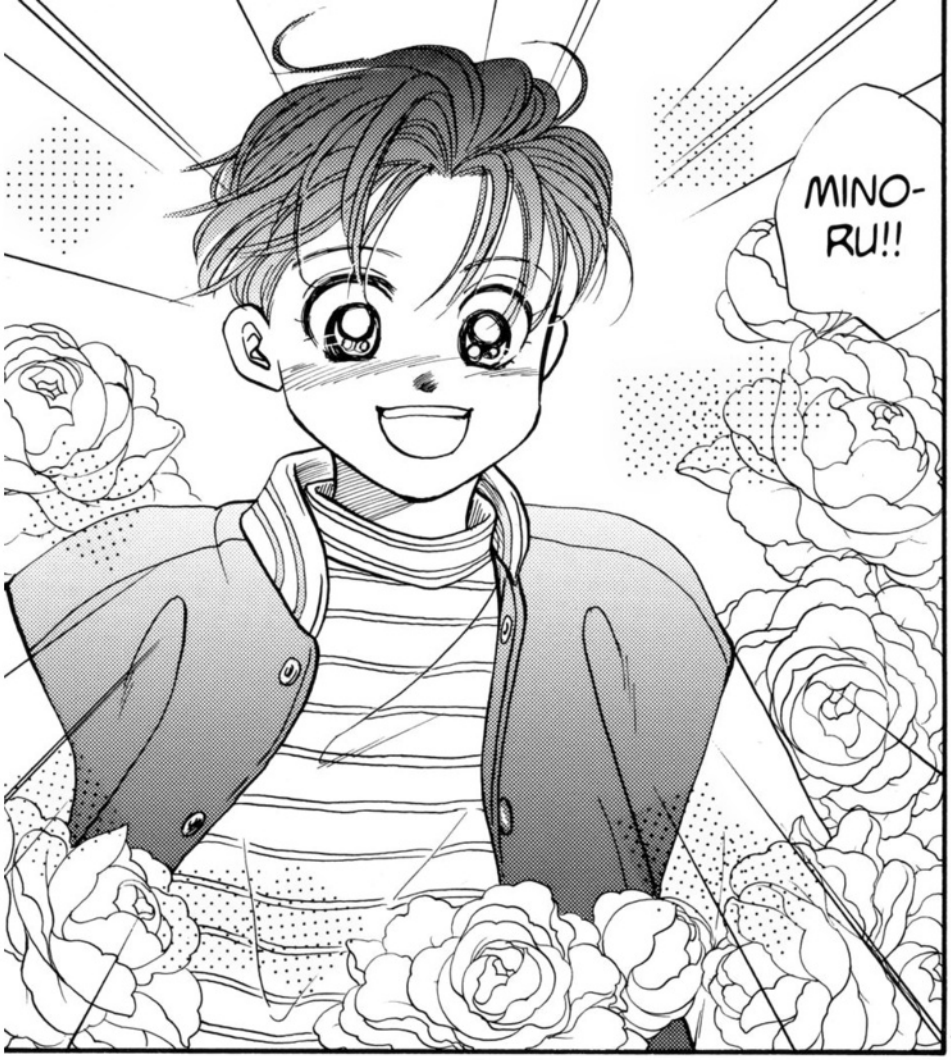
IT'S COLD. TAKE US TO A COFFEE SHOP, OKAY?
BE QUIET. WE'LL GET SOME NOODLES IN A LITTLE WHILE.
LOOK, KID...
JUST BE PATIENT.


BUT TELL ME THIS...
I GOT IN A BIG FIGHT WITH TOMOKO AND SHE GOT REALLY MAD AND RUINED MY VIDEOTAPES.
THEN YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL?

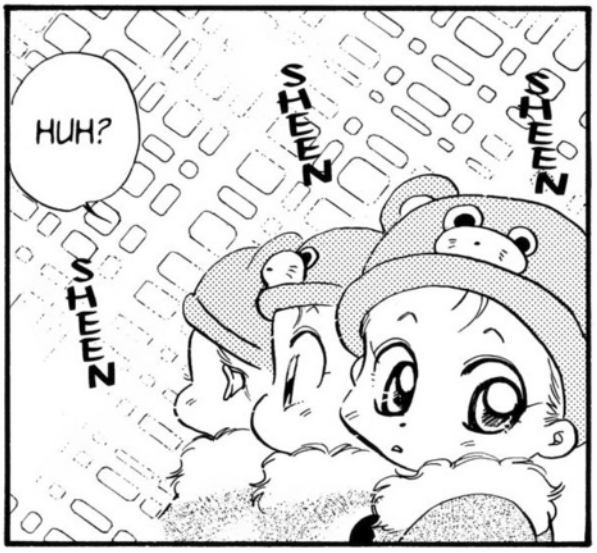

WELL, THAT SISTER OF YOURS SOUNDS PRETTY INTENSE.
This is embarrassing.
OH, MAN... I SHOULD'VE GRABBED MY WALLET WHEN I LEFT HOME.

NO.
IT'S KIND OF LIKE HOW IT'S OKAY FOR A GIRL TO WEAR PANTS, BUT IT'S WEIRD FOR A GUY TO WEAR A SKIRT, RIGHT?
Um ...

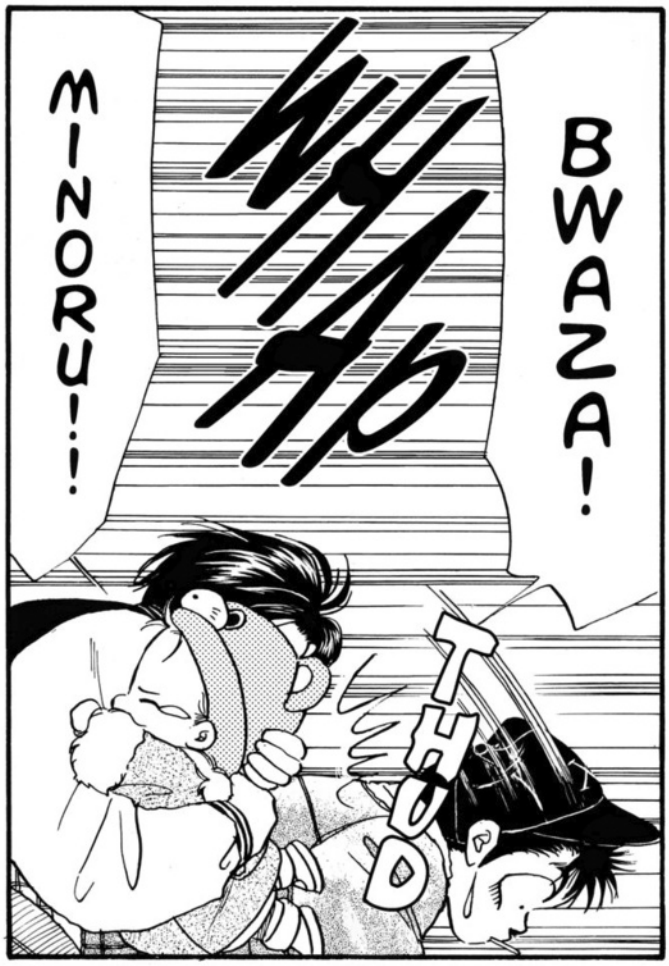
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
WHY IS IT OKAY FOR A GIRL TO HAVE A POSTER OF A GUY ON HER WALL, BUT WHEN A GUY HAS A POSTER OF A GIRL, IT'S DIRTY!?
Some-thing's not right.


MINO-
RU!!

!!
SIGH...


HUH?
SHEEN
SHEEN
SHEEN

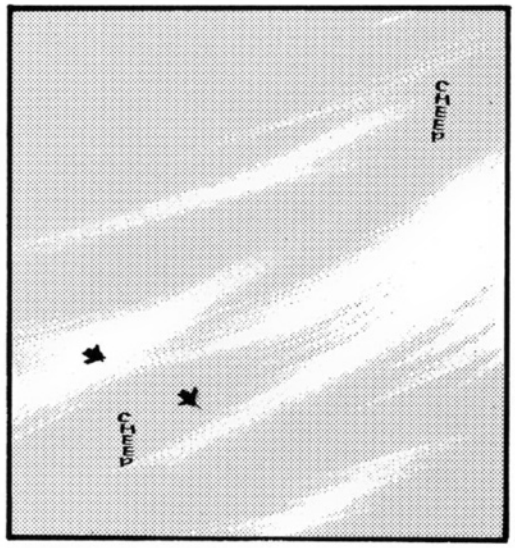
BWA...

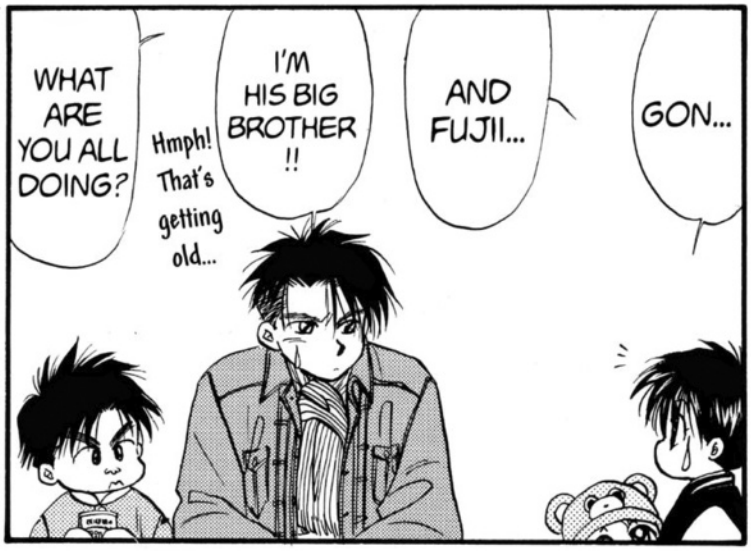

BWAZA!
MINORU!!
THUD

OH, THEN HE WASN'T ALONE.
HOW EMBAR-RASSING ...
BLUSH
TAKUYA, ARE YOU THROUGH CLEAN-ING?

I'LL TELL YOU WHY ...
YOUR DAD ASKED ME TO LOOK AFTER MINORU.
WHAT ?!

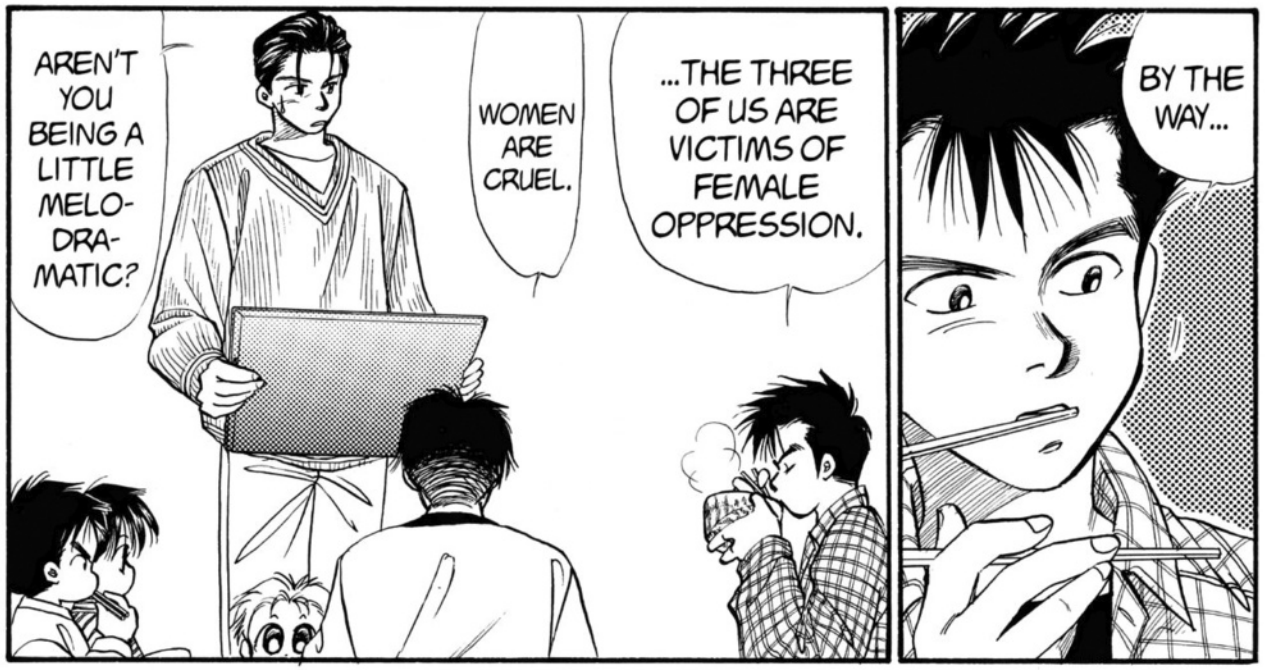
TAKUYA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HUH ?
WHY ARE YOU HERE, SEIICHI?

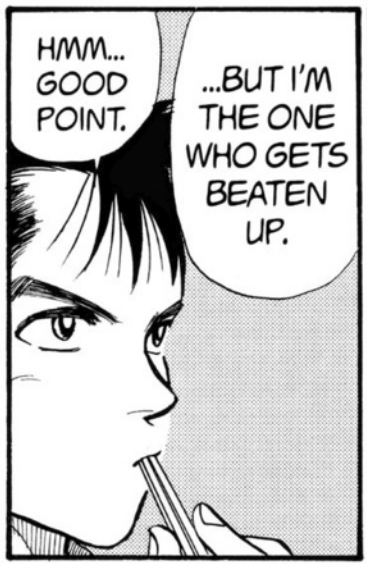

CHEEP
CHEEP


GON...
AND FUJII...
I'M HIS BIG BROTHER !!
Hmph! That's getting old...
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING?

I'M SORRY. YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME.
♬
KPAK
OH...
THAT'S OKAY.

THIS IS QUITE A CREW.

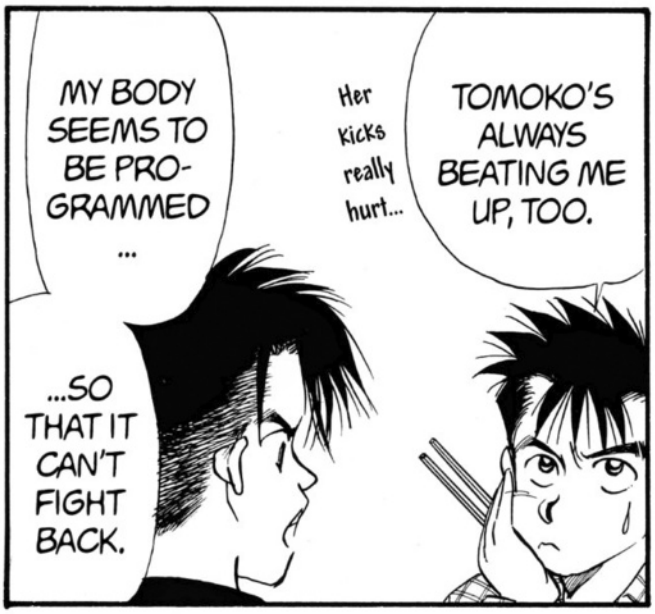

AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE MELO-DRA-MATIC?
WOMEN ARE CRUEL.
...THE THREE OF US ARE VICTIMS OF FEMALE OPPRESSION.
BY THE WAY...

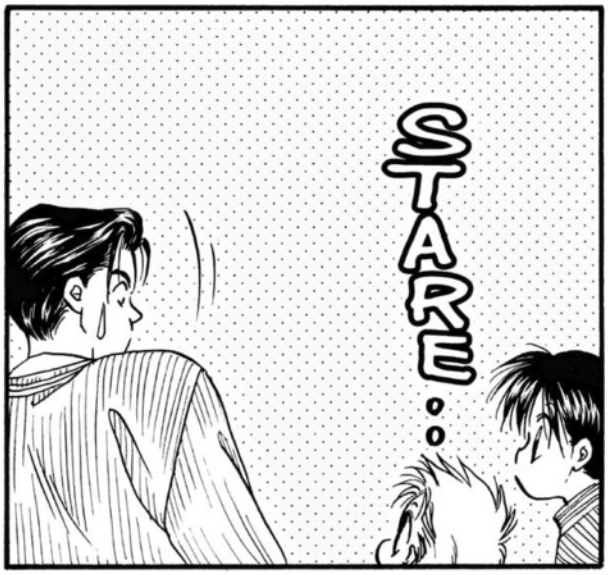

HMM... GOOD POINT.
...BUT I'M THE ONE WHO GETS BEATEN UP.

SHE'S ONLY A GIRL...
MY BIG SISTER AKEMI'S STRONGER THAN I AM. NOT PHYSICALLY.

WHAT'S THAT?
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING LATELY...

HEY!
I mean this whole page...
THIS SOUNDS A LITTLE TWISTED.

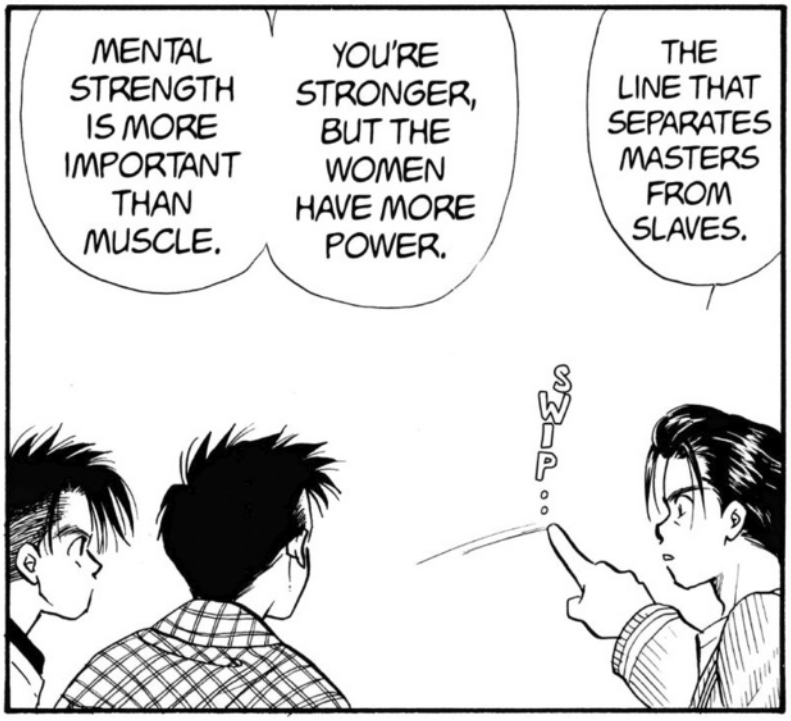

MY BODY SEEMS TO BE PRO-GRAMMED ...
Her kicks really hurt...
TOMOKO'S ALWAYS BEATING ME UP, TOO.
...SO THAT IT CAN'T FIGHT BACK.


STARE...

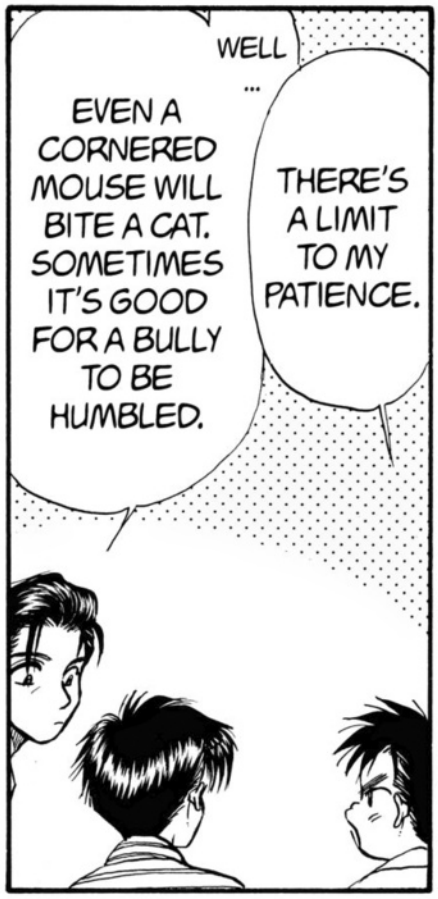
A NEW YEAR IS ABOUT TO BEGIN AND ALL THEY CAN THINK ABOUT IS THIS PETTY STUFF.
BZZT
THESE GUYS...

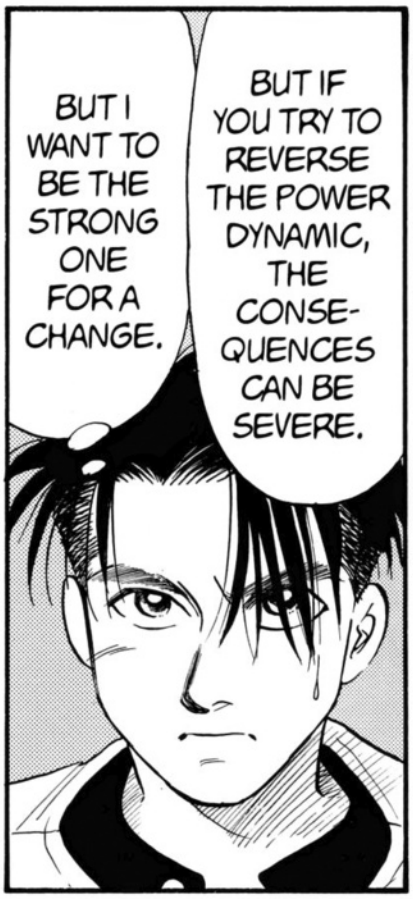
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF THE KIDS.
BUT... YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW TOO, RIGHT, TAKUYA?

DIDN'T SHE EVER SCREAM AT YOU?
WHAT ?
YOU AND YUKAKO NEVER FOUGHT, DID YOU, HARUMI?


MENTAL STRENGTH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MUSCLE.
YOU'RE STRONGER, BUT THE WOMEN HAVE MORE POWER.
THE LINE THAT SEPARATES MASTERS FROM SLAVES.
SWIP...

LET'S SET THAT ASIDE FOR NOW.
THIS IS ALL ABOUT WHO'S ABOVE THE LINE, AND WHO'S BELOW IT.
THE LINE?



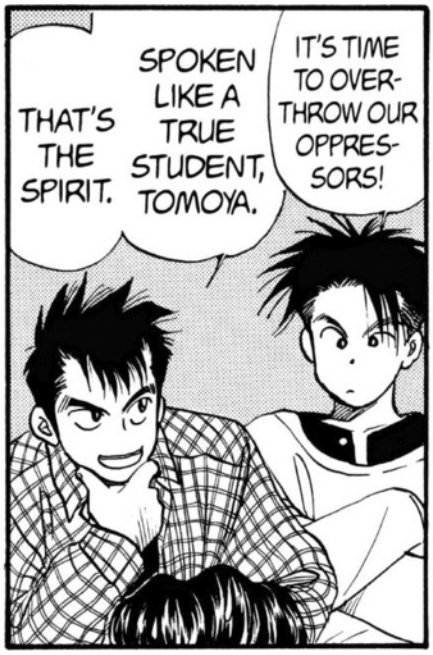


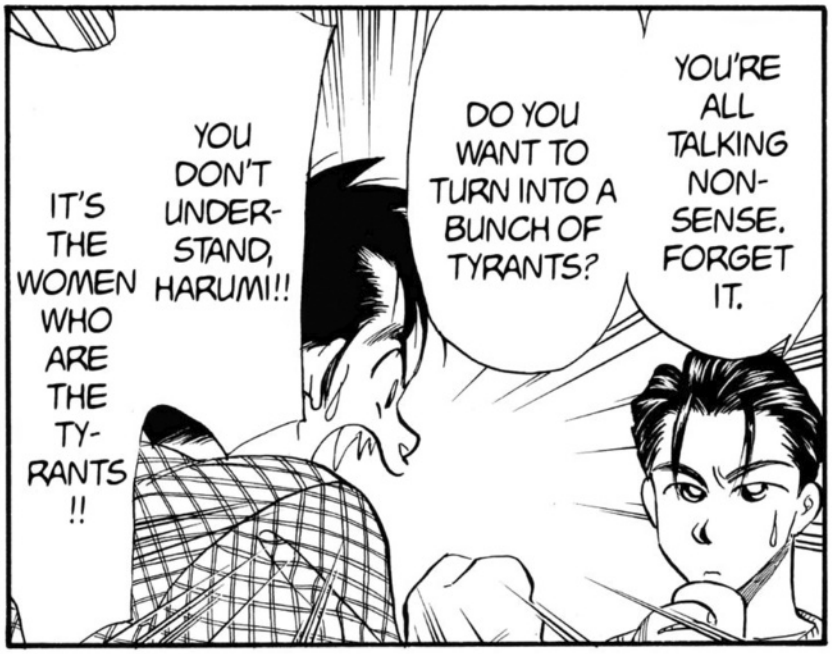
I'M GONNA TURN THE TABLES ON HER!!

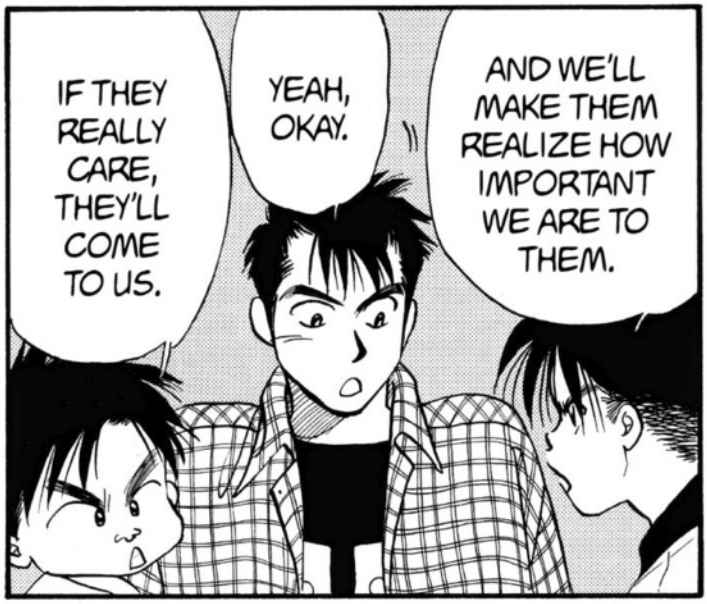
AND I'M THAT MOUSE !!

A CORNERED MOUSE WILL BITE A CAT!!

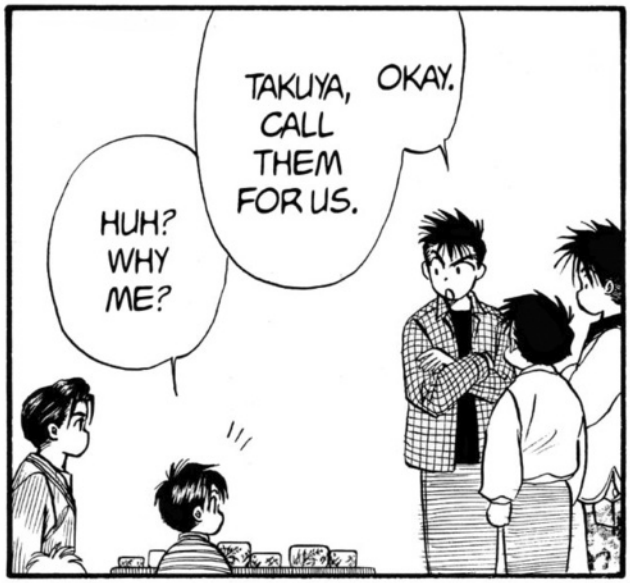
YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT!!

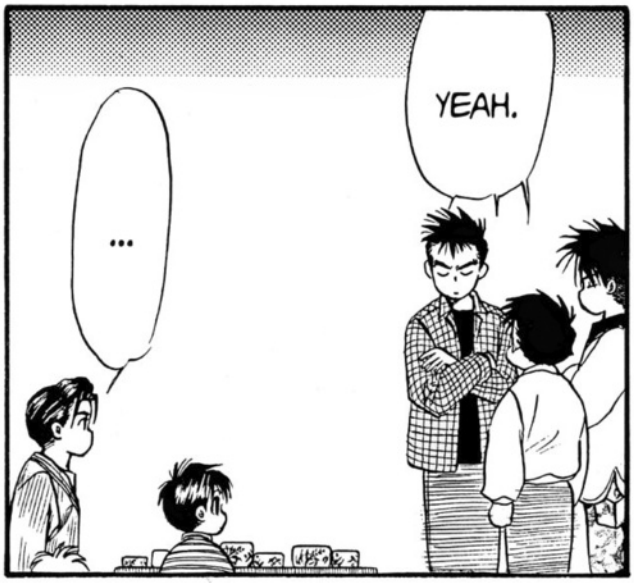

THAT'S THE SPIRIT.
SPOKEN LIKE A TRUE STUDENT, TOMOYA.
IT'S TIME TO OVER-THROW OUR OPPRES-SORS!


IT'S THE WOMEN WHO ARE THE TY-RANTS !!
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND, HARUMI!!
DO YOU WANT TO TURN INTO A BUNCH OF TYRANTS?
YOU'RE ALL TALKING NON-SENSE. FORGET IT.


IF THEY REALLY CARE, THEY'LL COME TO US.
YEAH, OKAY.
AND WE'LL MAKE THEM REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT WE ARE TO THEM.

YEAH!! WE'LL DEMAND AN APOLOGY!!
FIRST OF ALL, I WANT THE WOMEN TO ADMIT JUST HOW BADLY THEY'VE BEEN MISTREATING US.


HUH? WHY ME?
TAKUYA, CALL THEM FOR US.
OKAY.


...
YEAH.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
PAH!
... THEY HAVE TO COME TO US AND APOLO-GIZE!!
...IF THEY WANT US TO COME HOME...
JUST TELL THEM...
ERUNK

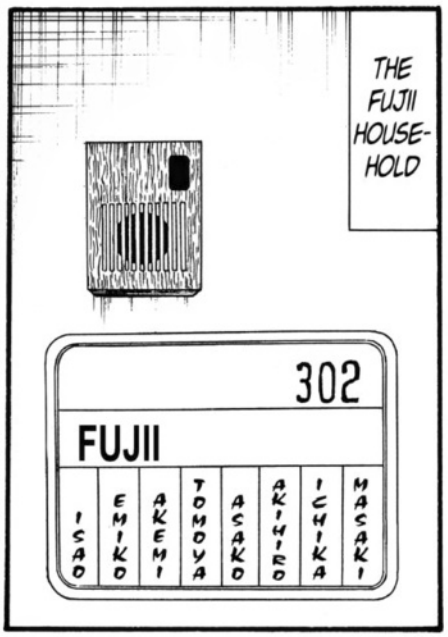
YOU GUYS ...
...ARE SO SWEET AND NAIVE. DON'T EVER CHANGE.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

HA HA HA!
THAT'S A GREAT PLAN!

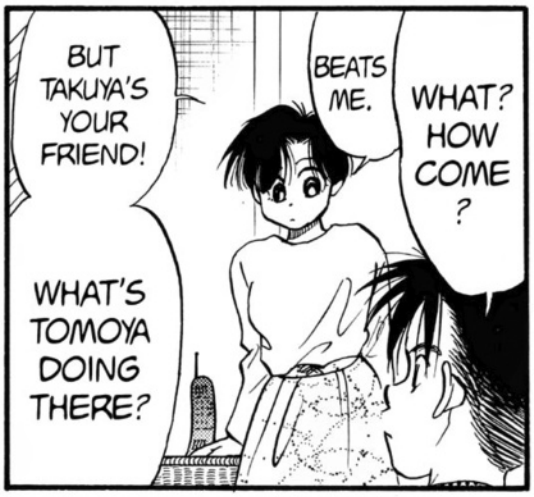
... STOM-ACH HURTS ...
MY ...
HARUMI ?
WH-WHAT?
HEE
HEE

THAT IDIOT TOMOYA'S OVER AT THE ENOKIS' HOUSE.
AKEMI, WHAT'S WRONG?

...


THE FUJII HOUSE-HOLD
302
FUJII
ISAO
EMIKO
AKEMI
TOMOYA
ASAKO
AKIHIRO
ICHIKA
MASAKI

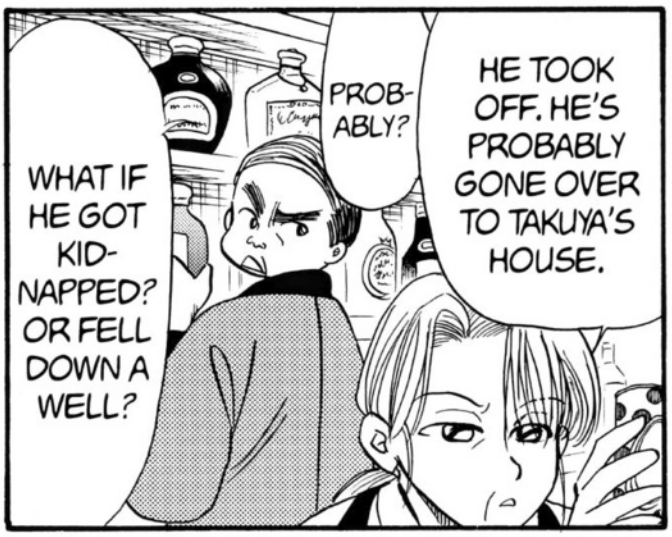
POOR TOMOYA.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE MEAN TO HIM, AKEMI.


BUT TAKUYA'S YOUR FRIEND!
BEATS ME.
WHAT? HOW COME ?
WHAT'S TOMOYA DOING THERE?

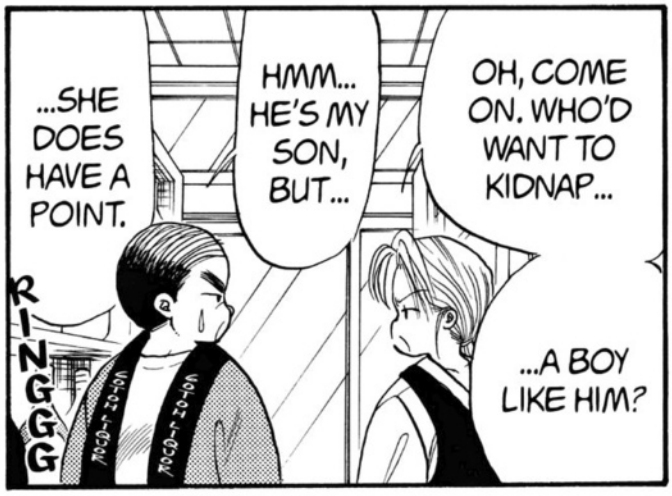
SHE'S ACTUALLY GOING...
AKI-HIRO ...
DRAW ME A MAP TO THE ENOKIS' HOUSE.
A LITTLE GUILT-RIDDEN

...

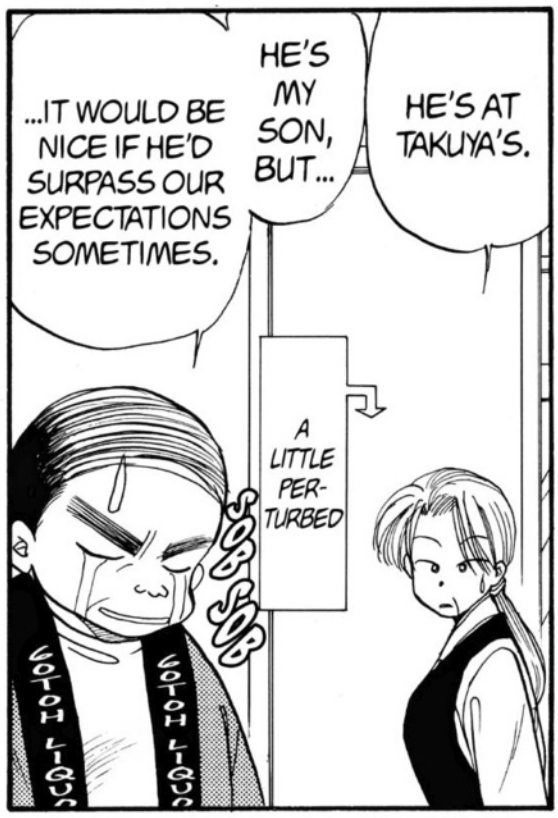
WHAT? ARE YOU SAYING IT'S MY FAULT?
WE'RE NOT THE ONES WHO HIT HIM WITH A MOP.
WELL ...


WHAT IF HE GOT KID-NAPPED? OR FELL DOWN A WELL?
PROB-ABLY?
HE TOOK OFF. HE'S PROBABLY GONE OVER TO TAKUYA'S HOUSE.

THE GOTOH HOUSE-HOLD
GOTOH LIQUOR
後藤酒店後藤酒店後藤酒店後藤

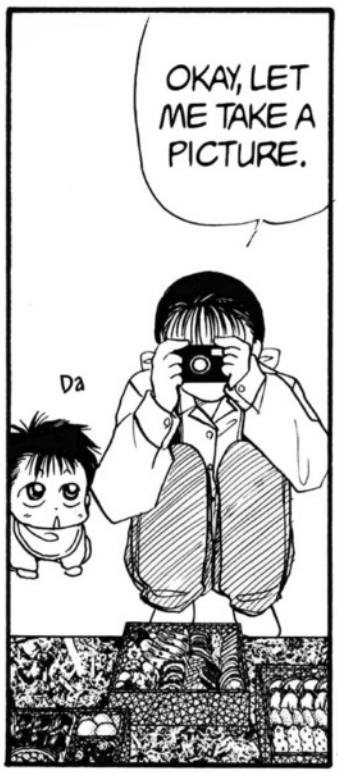

...SHE DOES HAVE A POINT.
HMM... HE'S MY SON, BUT...
OH, COME ON. WHO'D WANT TO KIDNAP...
...A BOY LIKE HIM?
RINGGG
GOTOH LIQUOR
GOTOH LIQUOR

THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE. WHERE THE HECK IS TADASHI?
HEY ...

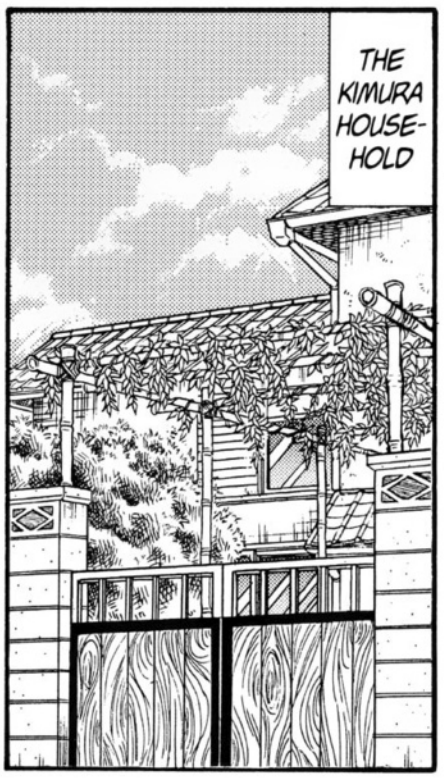

...IT WOULD BE NICE IF HE'D SURPASS OUR EXPECTATIONS SOMETIMES.
HE'S MY SON, BUT...
HE'S AT TAKUYA'S.
A LITTLE PER-TURBED
SOB SOB
GOTOH LIQUOR
GOTOH LIQUOR

AND HE WANTS ME TO COME AND APOLO-GIZE?
WHAT? TADASHI'S THERE?

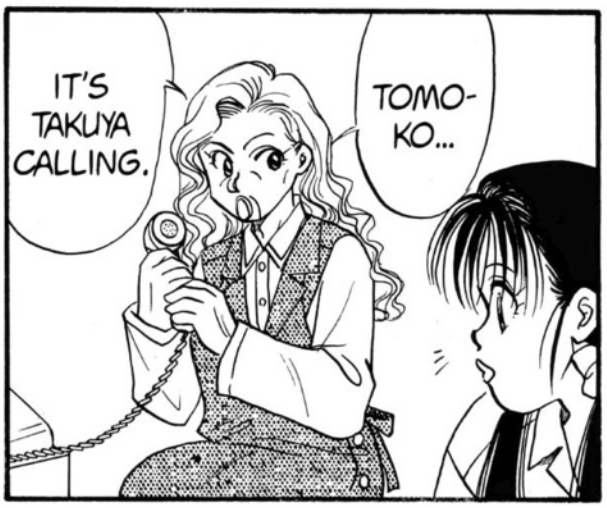
RINGGG
KLAK
GOTOH LIQUOR ...
OH, HELLO, TAKUYA.

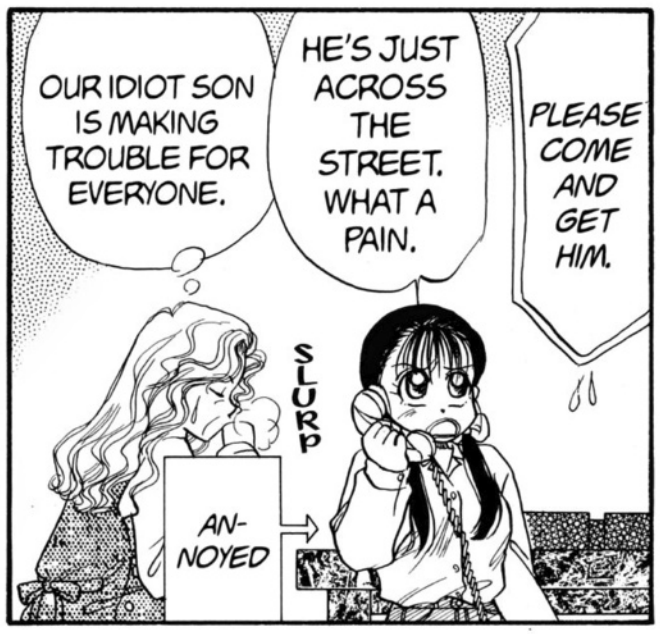

OKAY, LET ME TAKE A PICTURE.
Da

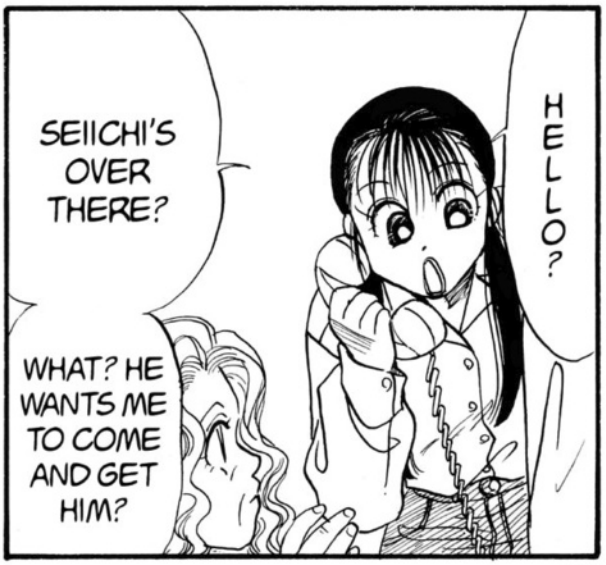
HMM ...
THEY TURNED OUT GREAT.


THE KIMURA HOUSE-HOLD

WHAT ?
THAT TROUBLE-MAKER. LET HIM STAY THERE IF HE WANTS.
NO WAY!!


IT'S TAKUYA CALLING.
TOMO-KO...


OUR IDIOT SON IS MAKING TROUBLE FOR EVERYONE.
HE'S JUST ACROSS THE STREET. WHAT A PAIN.
PLEASE COME AND GET HIM.
SLURP
AN-NOYED


HELLO?
SEIICHI'S OVER THERE?
WHAT? HE WANTS ME TO COME AND GET HIM?

I'LL TAKE SEIICHI HOME RIGHT NOW.
I'M SORRY IF OUR TADASHI PUT YOU OUT.
I'VE COME FOR TOMOYA.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
THANK GOODNESS THEY CAME.
THEY ACTUALLY CAME ...
HEH
I GUESS I'LL FORGIVE YOU.
YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON.
WE'LL COME HOME, FOR YOUR SAKES.
GRR
GRITCH

WHAM

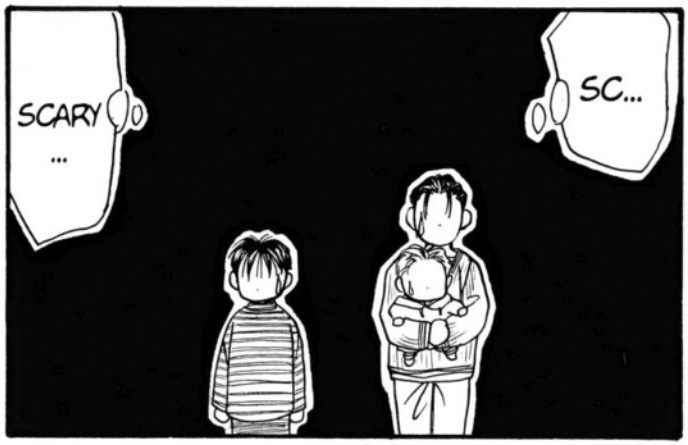
STOP BOTHERING OTHER PEOPLE!

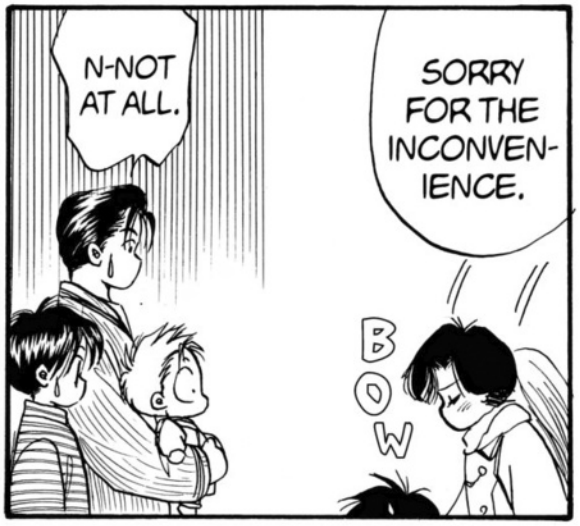
WHAP

YOU NEVER HELP AROUND THE HOUSE!

WHAK

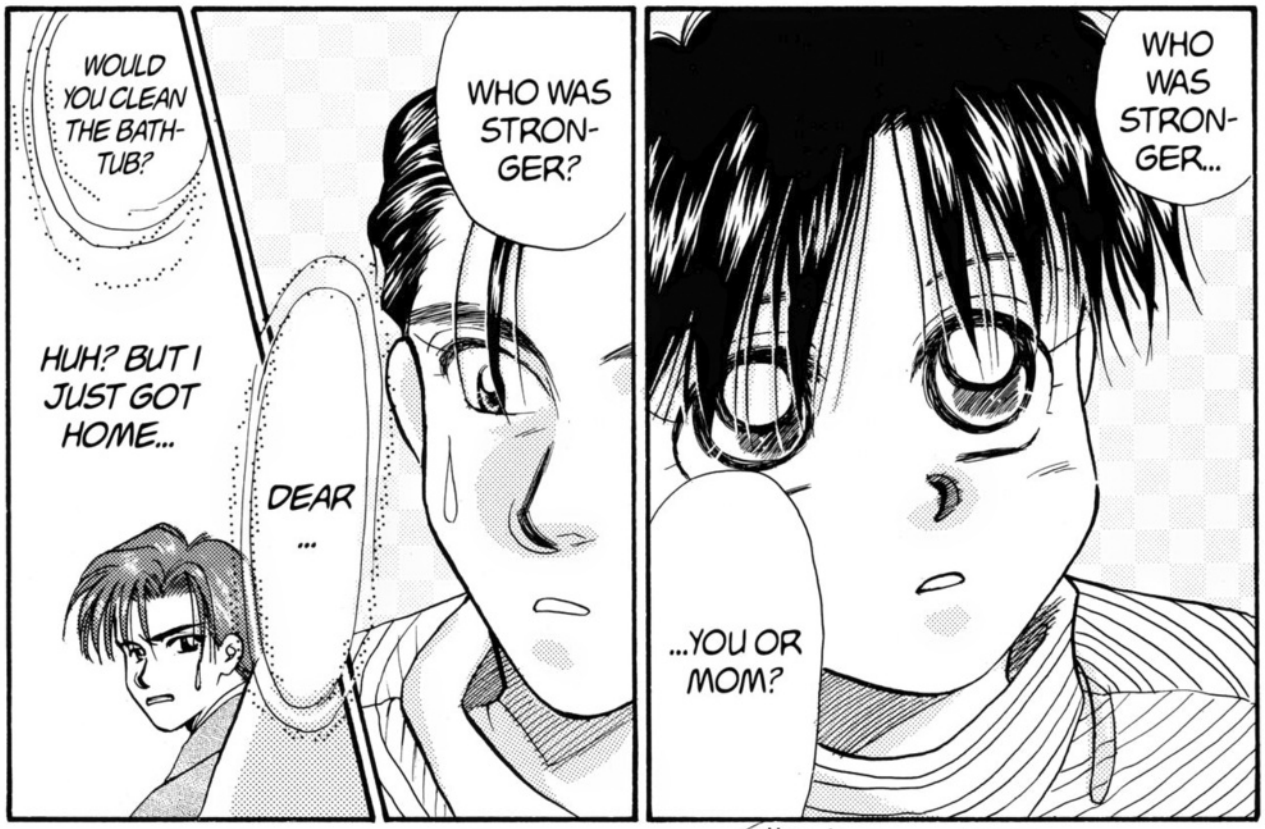
WHY, YOU...

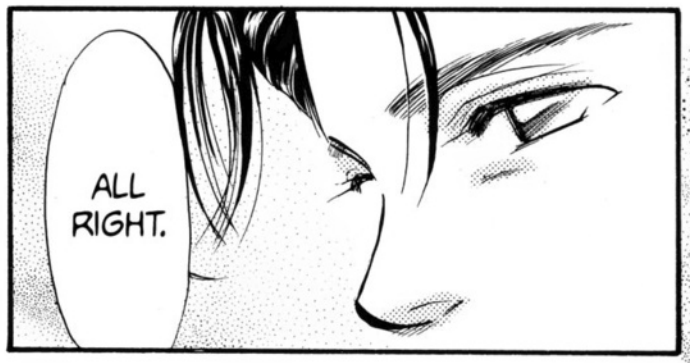


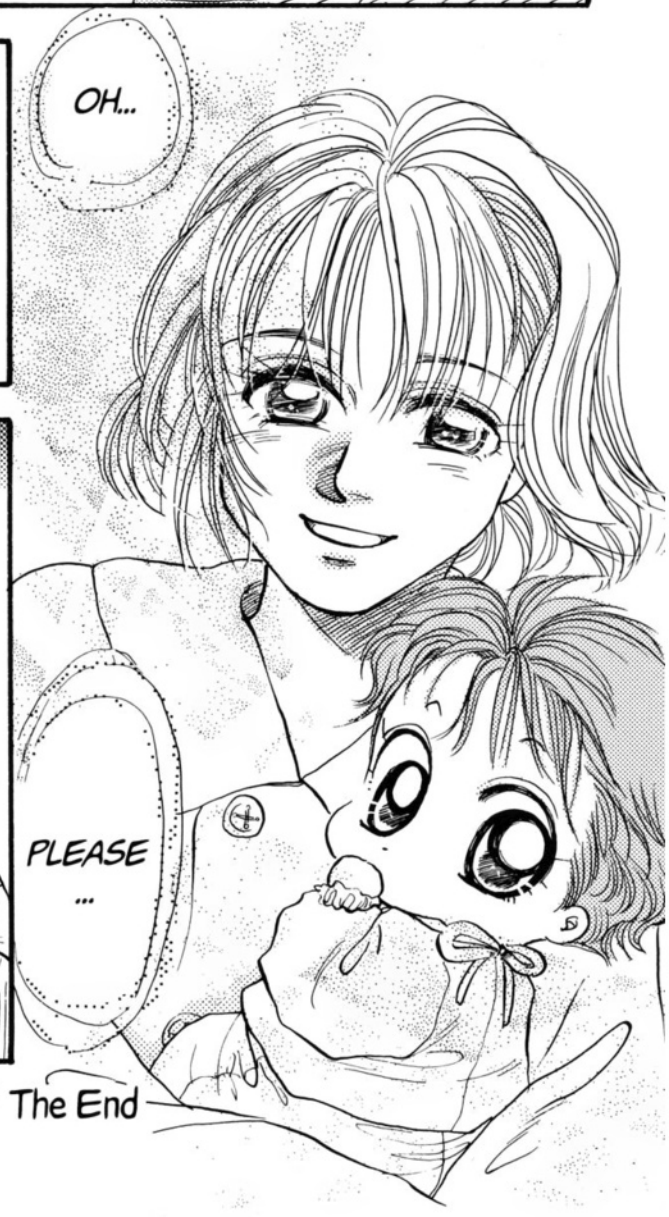


CONCLUSION:

THE MEN WERE UNABLE TO OVERTHROW THEIR FEMALE MASTERS.

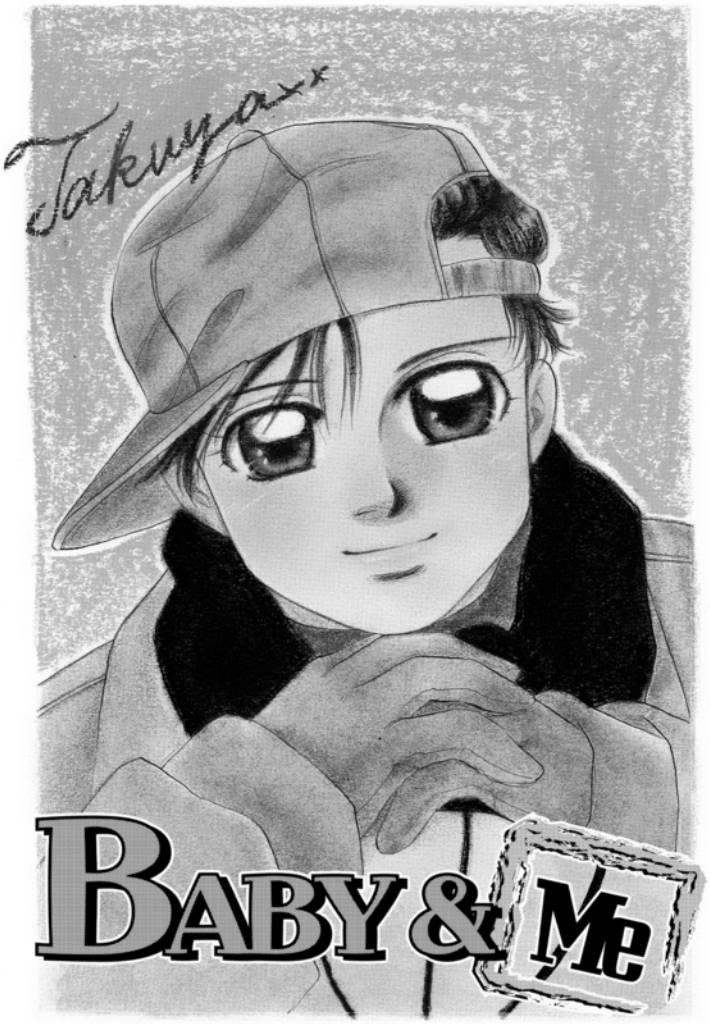






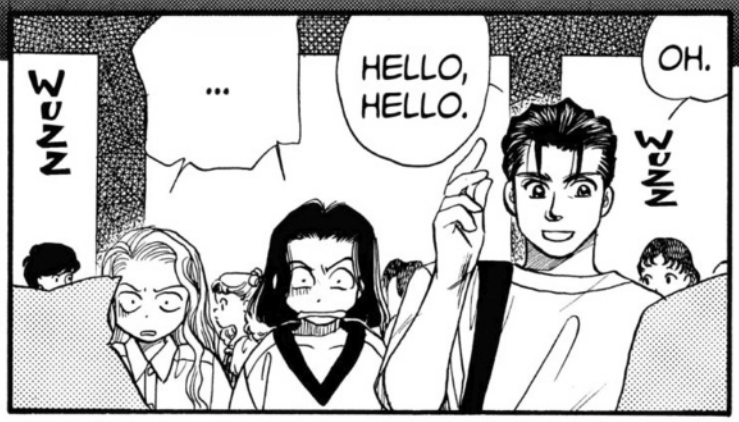
Chapter 59 / The End

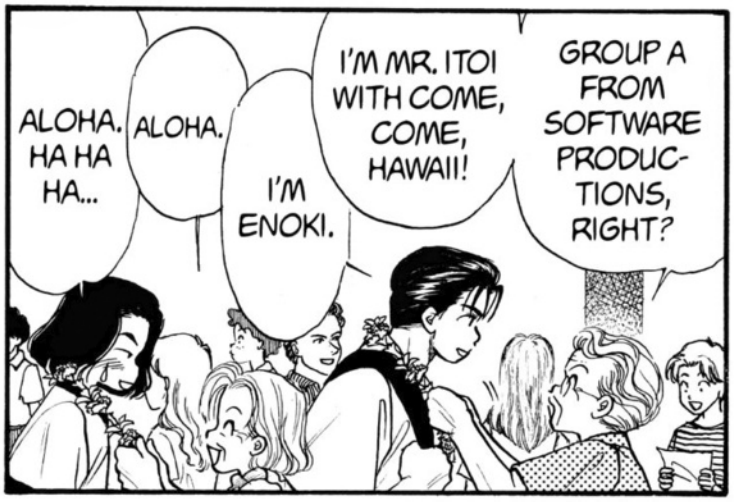
WOOM
WOB WOB WOB
WOB MM ... WOB
WOB WOB
ALL OF A SUDDEN ...
WOB WOB
HEY ...
GULP
IT'S GETTING LIGHT OUT.
ZZZ ZZZ
IT'S BEAUTI-FUL...
IS THE SUN COMING UP?
YAWN
UBBA ...

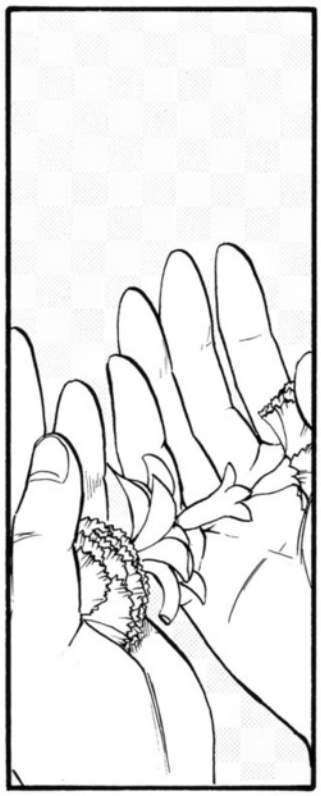

Takuya
BABY & Me

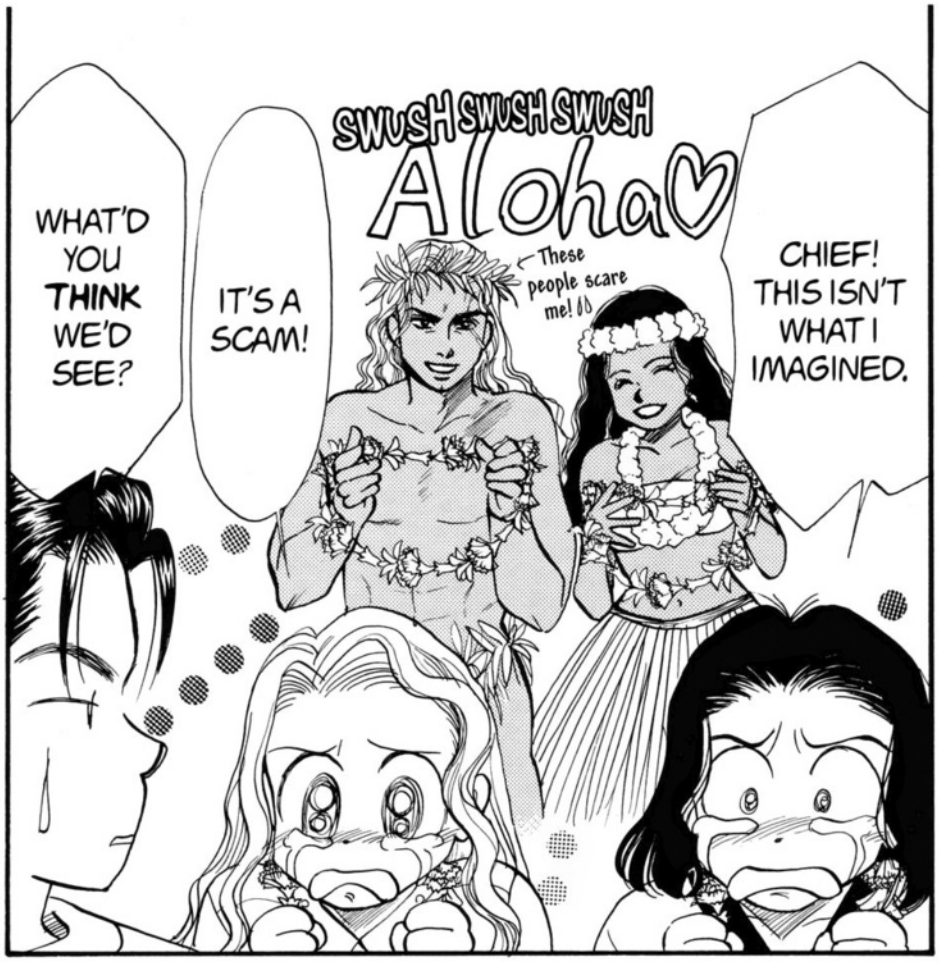
Momo
Chapter 60

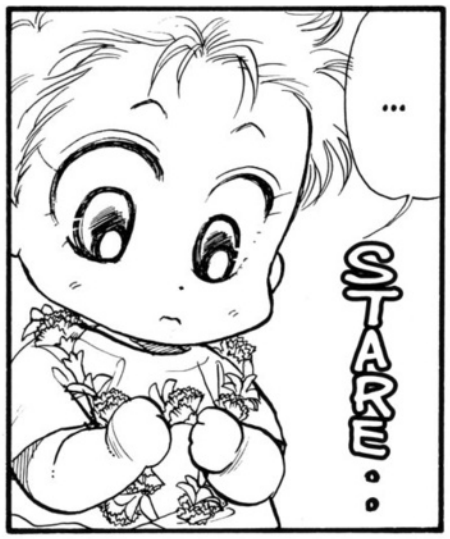
WE'RE IN HAWAII.





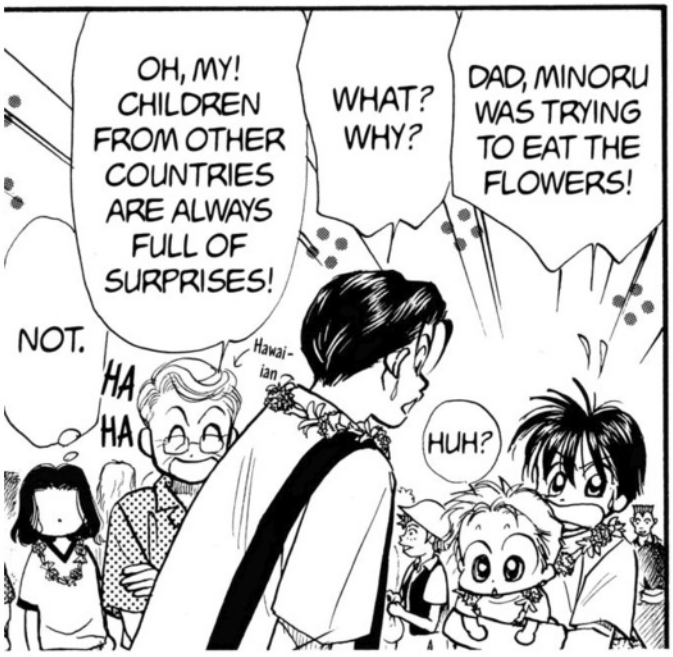


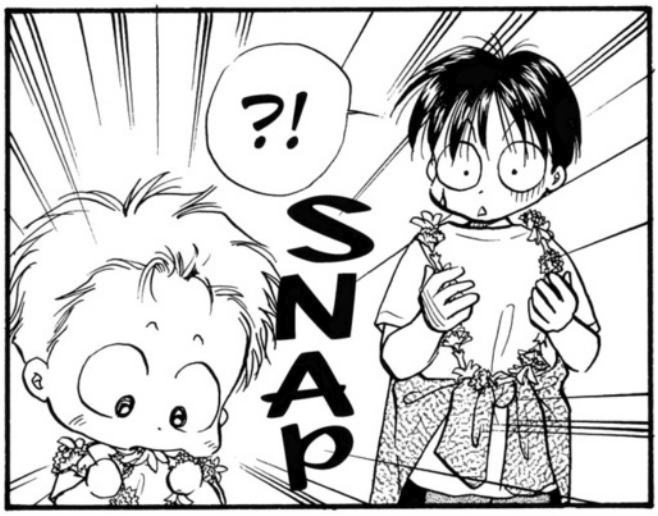

SWUSH SWUSH SWUSH
Aloha♡
WHAT'D YOU THINK WE'D SEE?
IT'S A SCAM!
These people scare me!
CHIEF! THIS ISN'T WHAT I IMAGINED.


...
STARE..

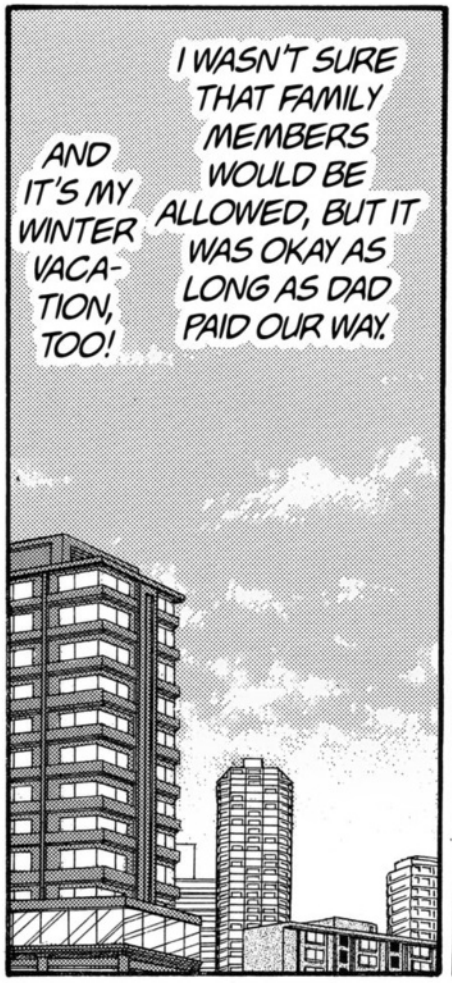
IT'S HOT HERE, SO MAYBE THEY HAVE TO KEEP THE FLOWERS COLD.
YEAH, IT IS COLD.
HUH?

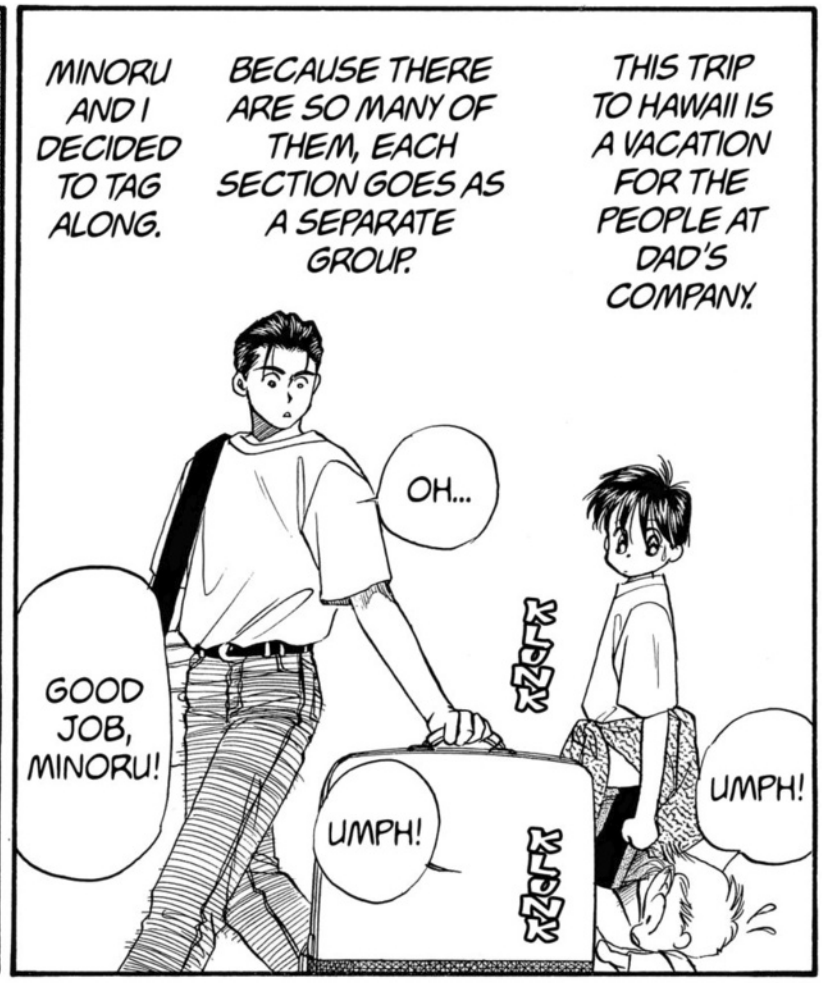
SMELLS NICE.
COWD.
SNIFF
SNIFF


OH, MY! CHILDREN FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ARE ALWAYS FULL OF SURPRISES!
WHAT? WHY?
DAD, MINORU WAS TRYING TO EAT THE FLOWERS!
NOT.
HA HA
Hawai-ian
HUH?

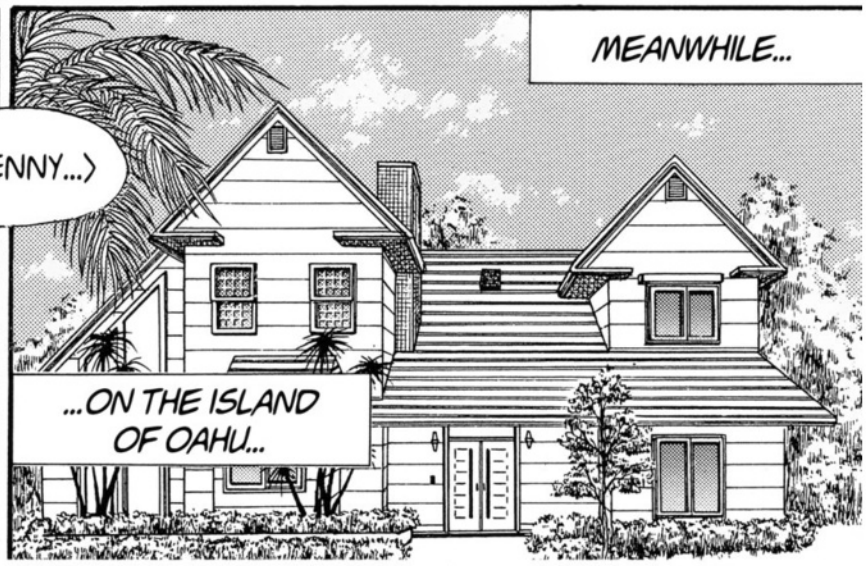

?!
SNAP

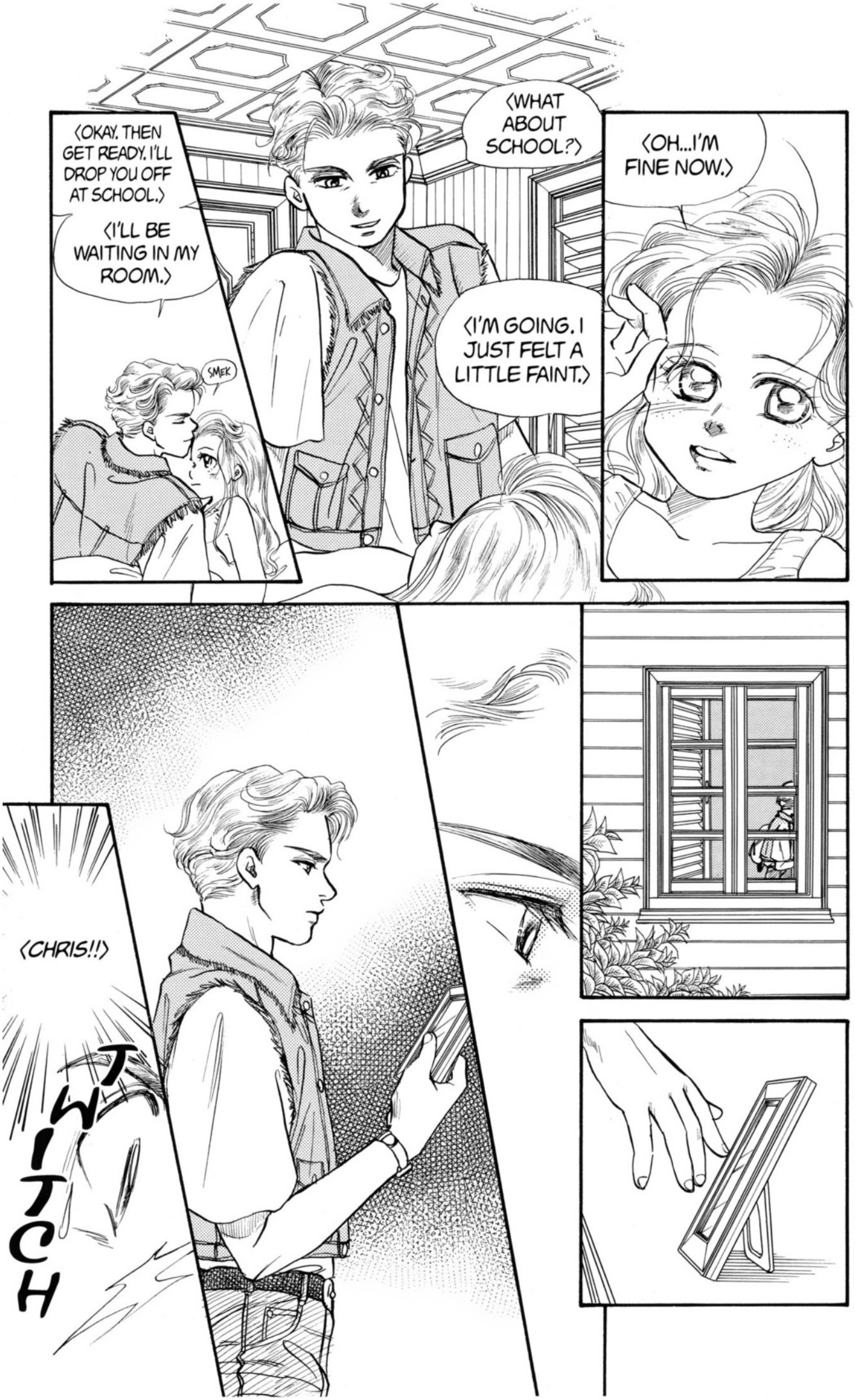
YOU WANT TO GET DARKER THAN THAT?
OKAY...
WUNN
WE'RE NOT GOING TO THE BEACH? BUT MY TAN...
WUNN
EXCUSE ME! WE'RE GOING SIGHT-SEEING ON THE BUS!

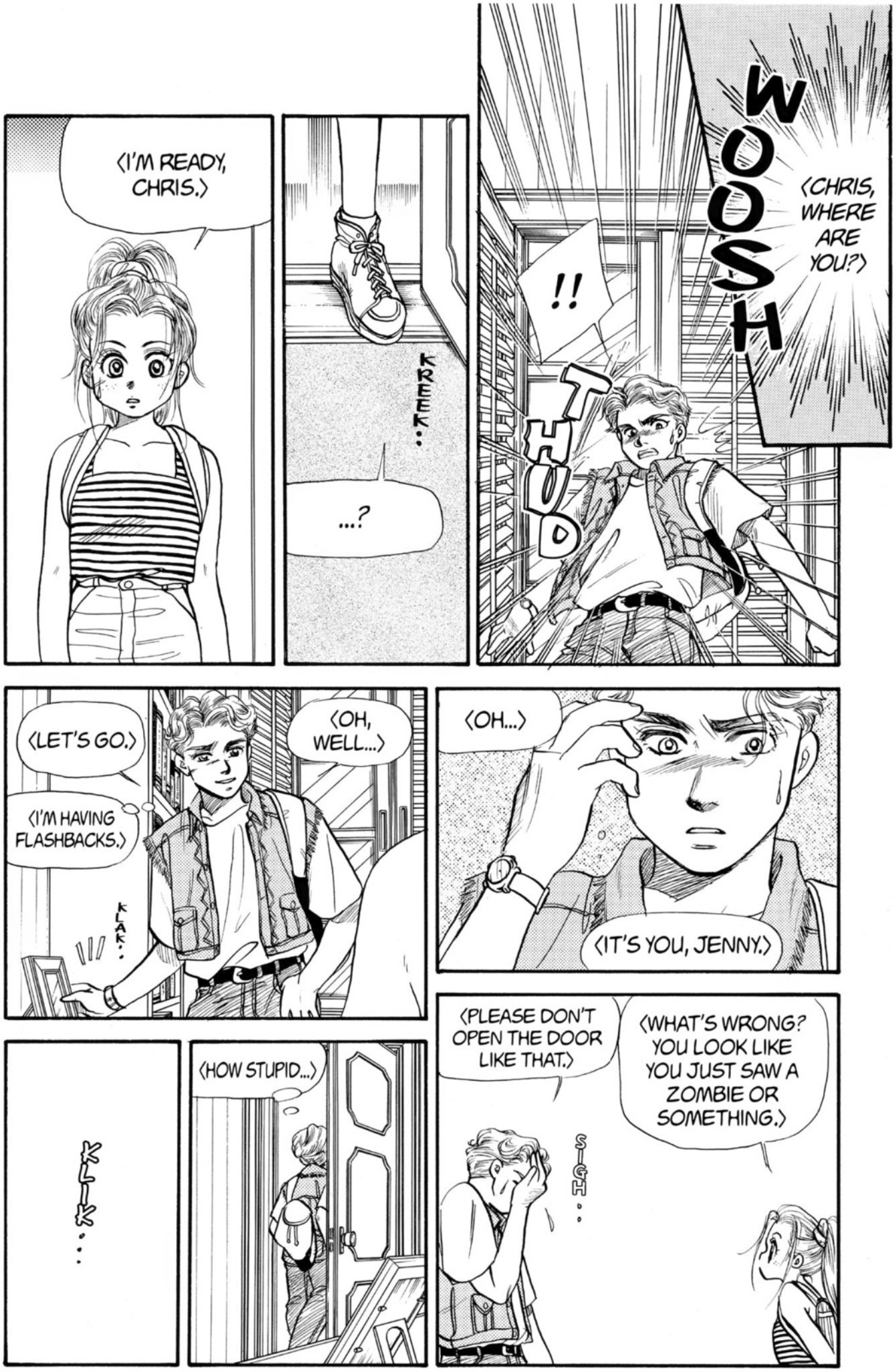

I WASN'T SURE THAT FAMILY MEMBERS WOULD BE ALLOWED, BUT IT WAS OKAY AS LONG AS DAD PAID OUR WAY.
AND IT'S MY WINTER VACA-TION, TOO!


MINORU AND I DECIDED TO TAG ALONG.
BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM, EACH SECTION GOES AS A SEPARATE GROUP.
THIS TRIP TO HAWAII IS A VACATION FOR THE PEOPLE AT DAD'S COMPANY.
OH...
GOOD JOB, MINORU!
UMPH!
UMPH!

〈JENNY...〉
〈HOW ARE YOU FEELING?〉


MEANWHILE...
...ON THE ISLAND OF OAHU...


<OKAY. THEN GET READY. I'LL DROP YOU OFF AT SCHOOL.>
<I'LL BE WAITING IN MY ROOM.>
SMEK
<WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL?>
<I'M GOING. I JUST FELT A LITTLE FAINT.>
<OH...I'M FINE NOW.>
<CHRIS!!>
TWITCH


〈I'M READY, CHRIS.〉
KREEK..
...?
WOOSH
〈CHRIS, WHERE ARE YOU?〉
!!
THUD
〈LET'S GO.〉
〈OH, WELL...〉
〈I'M HAVING FLASHBACKS.〉
KLAK..
〈OH...〉
〈IT'S YOU, JENNY.〉
KLIK...
〈HOW STUPID...〉
〈PLEASE DON'T OPEN THE DOOR LIKE THAT.〉
〈WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU JUST SAW A ZOMBIE OR SOMETHING.〉
SIGH..

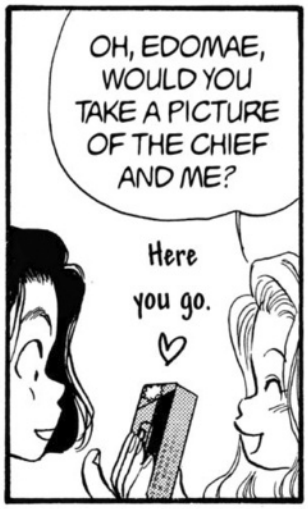
WUNN
WUNN
TAKUYA! MINORU! STAND NEXT TO EACH OTHER.
YEAH?
Minoru
GO CHECK OUT THE FANTASTIC VIEW OF THE ISLAND!
IF I MAY HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE...IT'S A BIT CLOUDY, BUT DON'T WORRY, IT'S CLEAR UP AT THE LOOKOUT.
THIS IS NUUANU PALI.
NUUANU PALI
IT'S LIKE THIS.
HERE'S THE PEACE SIGN, HAWAIIAN STYLE.
OH, THANK YOU.
LET ME TAKE IT. GO JOIN THEM!
WHEN DID YOU CHANGE, ANYWAY?
WOOOO
WE CHANGED CLOTHES TOO SOON!
OH, IT'S SO COLD!
PHOTO TITLE: "MINORU DID IT WRONG."
KA-CHAK
SMILE!
HERE GOES!

OOO! ♡ A FOREIGNER, A FOREIGNER!
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
IOLANI PALACE
KA-CHAK
SHEEN
ALL HE DOES IS COMPLAIN.
UGH! IT'S HOT!
KAWAIAHA'O CHURCH
KA-CHAK
STATUE OF KING KAMEHAMEHA IN FRONT OF THE HAWAII STATE SUPREME COURT
KA-CHAK
OKAY!
ONE, TWO, THREE!

HMM ...
HUH?
YACK
YACK

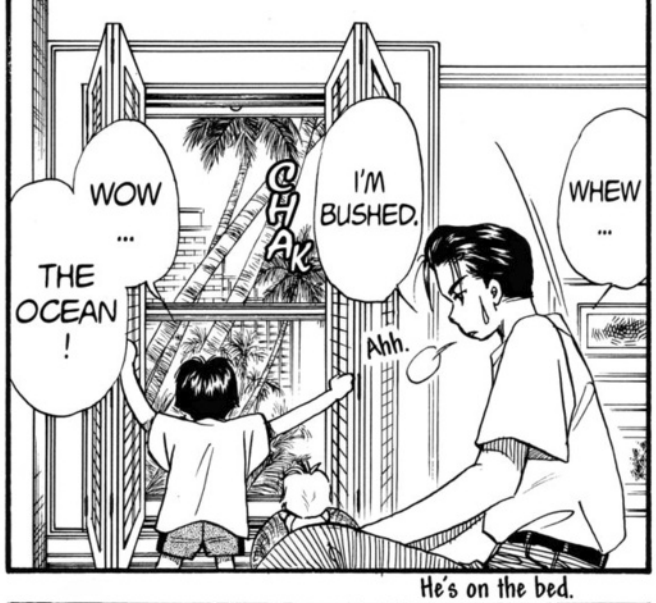
HEY, WHAT ABOUT ME?
GRR
LET'S TAKE A PICTURE TOGETHER, CHIEF. ♡

PEOPLE LOSE THEIR INHIBITIONS ON THE ISLANDS.
WHAT'S EDOMAE HOWLING ABOUT?
Para-dise sucks!


OH, EDOMAE, WOULD YOU TAKE A PICTURE OF THE CHIEF AND ME?
Here you go. ♡

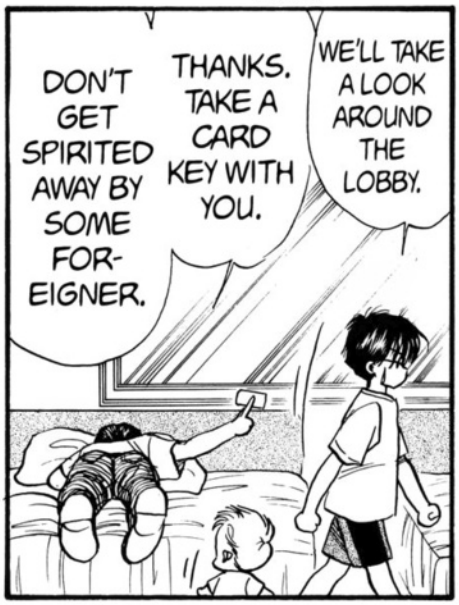
HOTEL
WUNN
WUNN
WE'RE NOT IN JAPAN ANY-MORE.

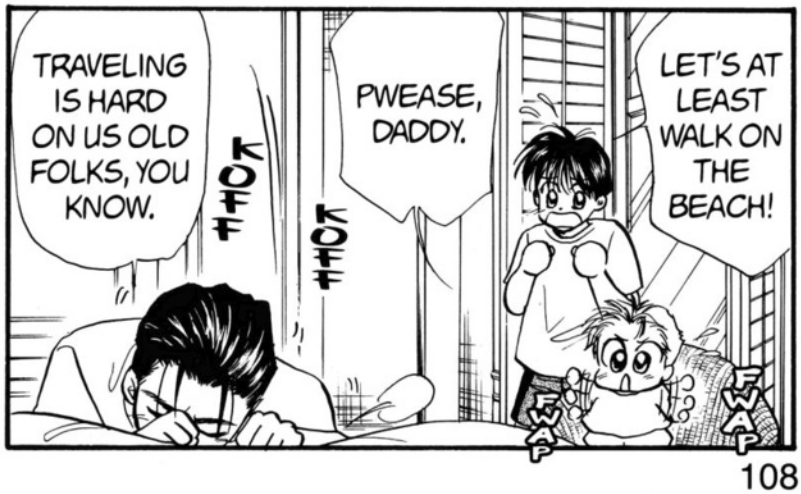
WOW...
IT FEELS WEIRD ...



He's on the bed.

Minoru



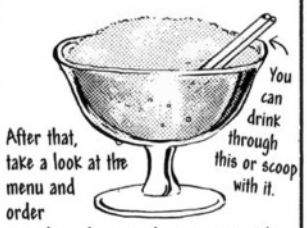


Author's Note: Part 4
(Continued from Part 3)

Some people don't go to bars because they think cocktails are for snobs. Well, I have some advice for those people. (I'm talking to the grownups, of course.) If you've never had a cocktail before, and if you're a light drinker, go to a bar and order a "Kahlúa and cream." It has a smooth, sweet taste. It looks and tastes a lot like coffee with milk.

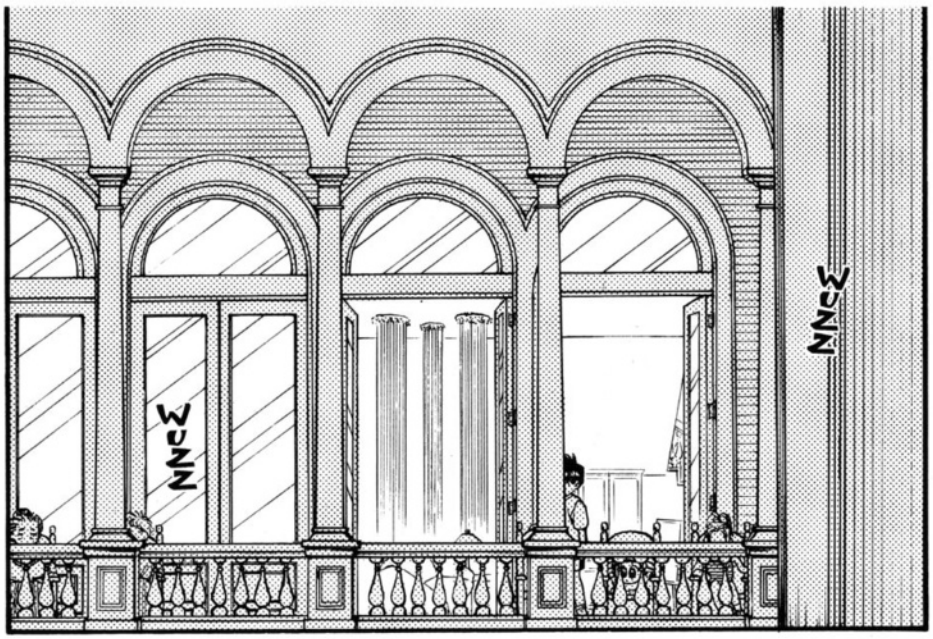
After that, try a rum- or liqueur-based cocktail from the menu. They're very nice. Cocktails made with gin, vodka, and tequila are too strong for beginners (in my opinion).

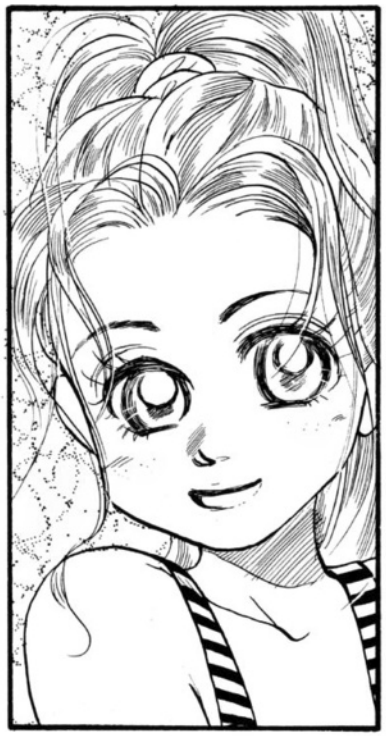
I especially recommend frozen drinks. They're like shaved ice, nice and cold. I really like frozen daiquiris, especially peach and strawberry. They're good and sweet.

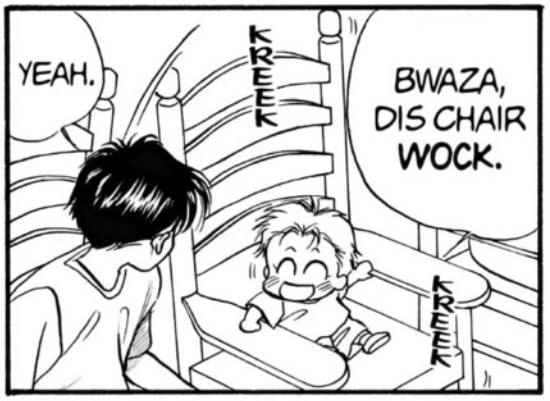


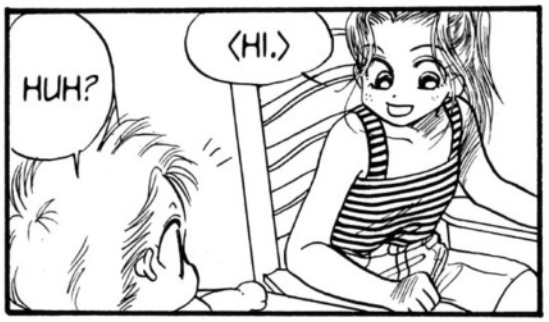
After that, take a look at the menu and order something that sounds interesting. It's so much fun when you find out what you ordered.

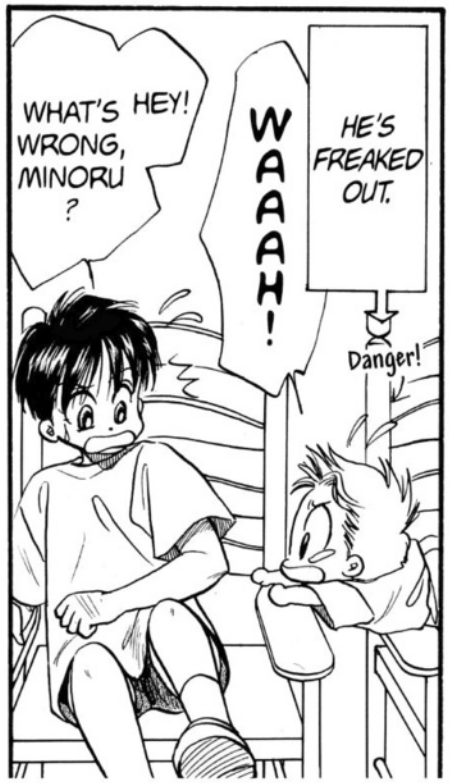
If the edge of your glass is covered with salt, you're supposed to lick off a little salt with each sip. Don't wipe the salt off.

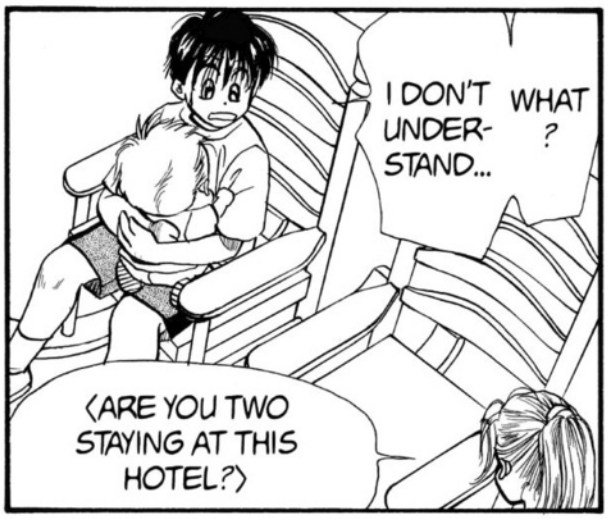


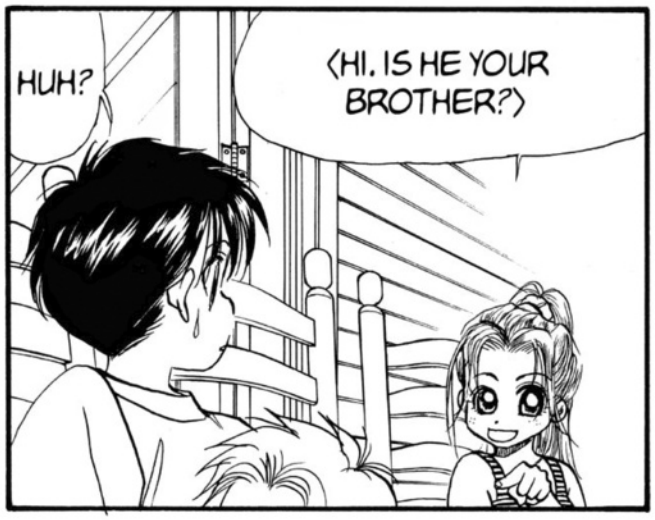


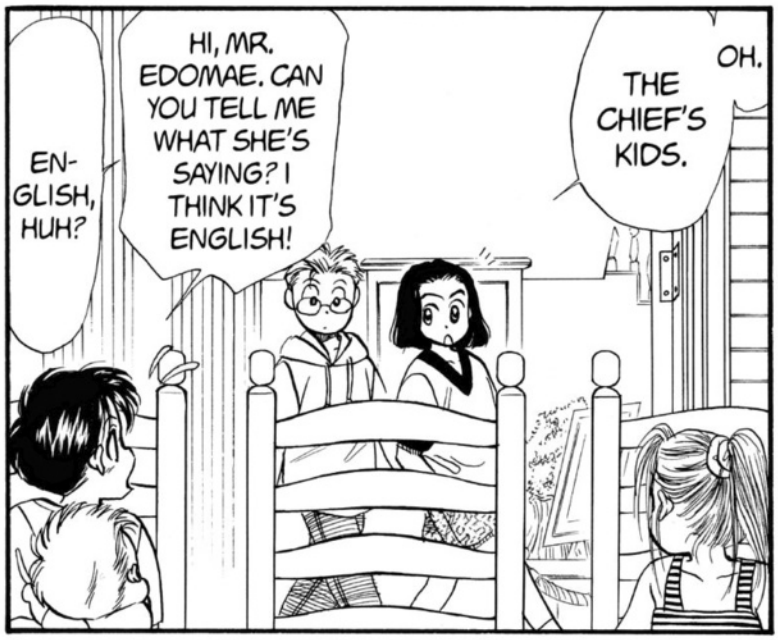


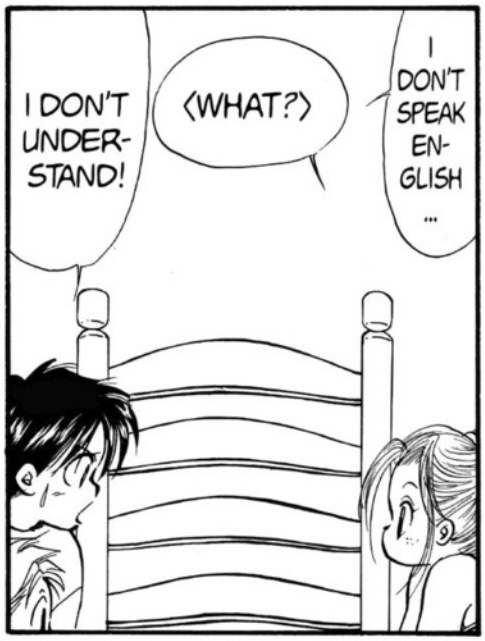





I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
WHAT ?
〈ARE YOU TWO STAYING AT THIS HOTEL?〉

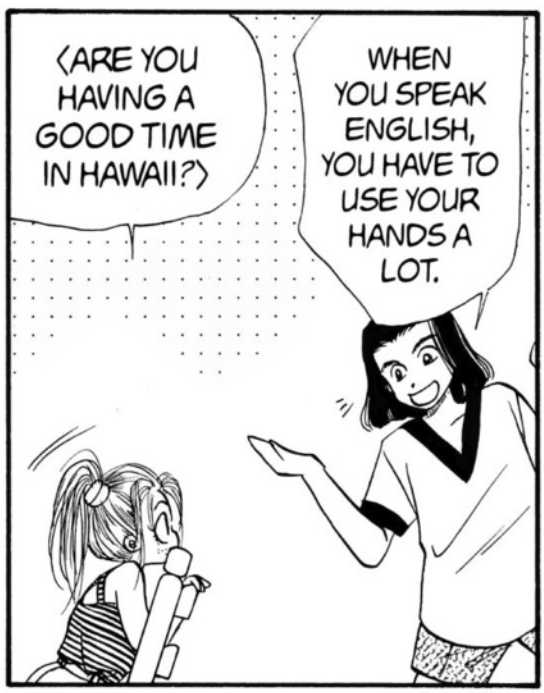

HUH?
〈HI. IS HE YOUR BROTHER?〉


EN-GLISH, HUH?
HI, MR. EDOMAE. CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT SHE'S SAYING? I THINK IT'S ENGLISH!
OH. THE CHIEF'S KIDS.


I DON'T UNDER-STAND!
〈WHAT?〉
I DON'T SPEAK EN-GLISH ...

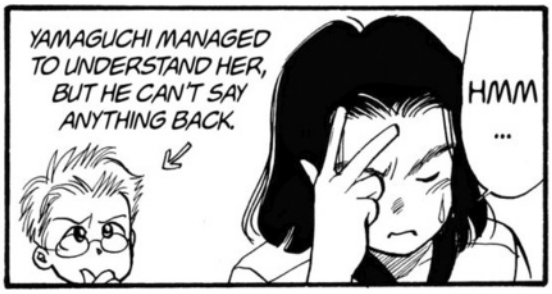
PA-RUDON ?
SUR-OOLEE ...
PU-PUREESU ...
HA
HA

HE'S OUT OF HIS DEPTH.


〈ARE YOU HAVING A GOOD TIME IN HAWAII?〉
WHEN YOU SPEAK ENGLISH, YOU HAVE TO USE YOUR HANDS A LOT.

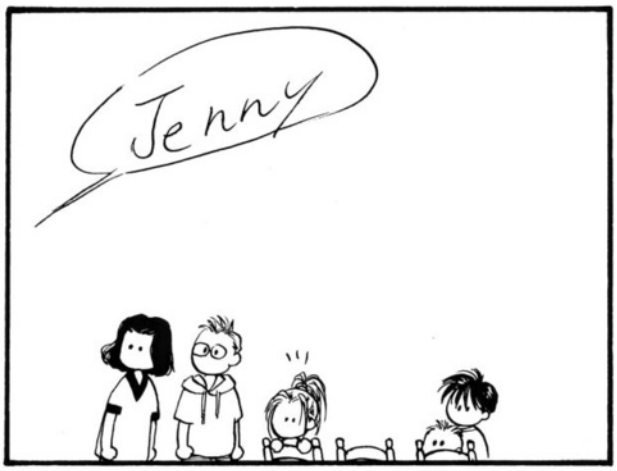
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?
AIMU SOREE... AI CANNOTO SUPEEKU INGURISHU!
(I'm sorry, I can't speak English.)
WHAK

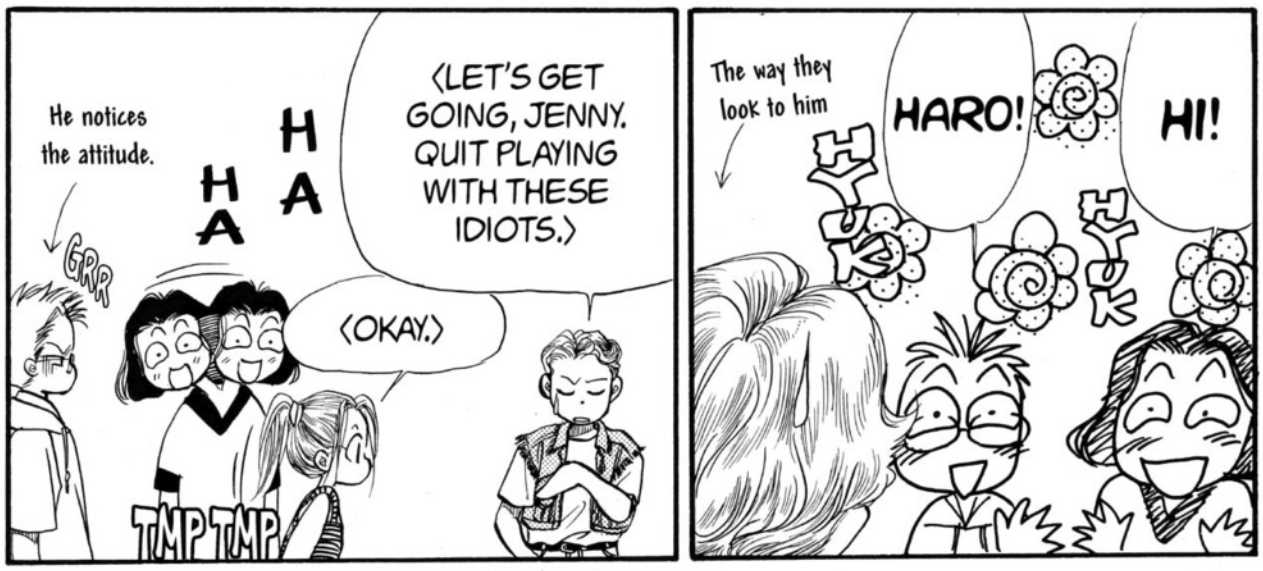
<ARE YOU HAVING A GOOD TIME IN HAWAII?>
<WHY DO SO MANY JAPANESE PEOPLE COME HERE?>


YAMAGUCHI MANAGED TO UNDERSTAND HER, BUT HE CAN'T SAY ANYTHING BACK.
HMM ...

<WHAT ARE YOU DOING?>
<I'M DONE HERE. LET'S GO HOME.>

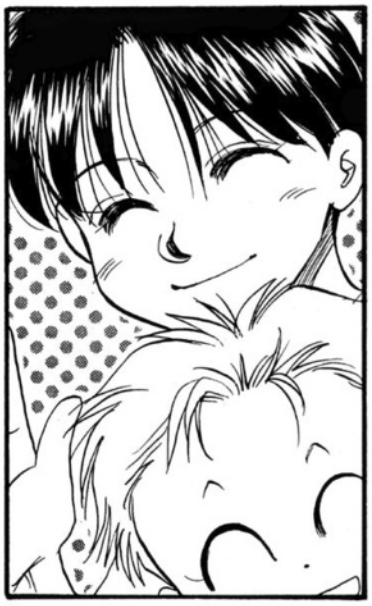
DON'T BE TOO AWED. HIS ENGLISH STINKS.
I-IT WAS NOTHING...
I'M IMPWESHED.
I'M IMPRESSED! MR. EDOMAE SPEAKS ENGLISH!
BUSH
IN AWE...


Jenny


He notices the attitude.
GRRR
HA
HA
<LET'S GET GOING, JENNY. QUIT PLAYING WITH THESE IDIOTS.>
<OKAY.>
TMP TMP

The way they look to him
HARO!
HI!
HYUK
HYUK

<IS HE YOUR AGE?>
<BYE!>
<I DUNNO. MAYBE.>



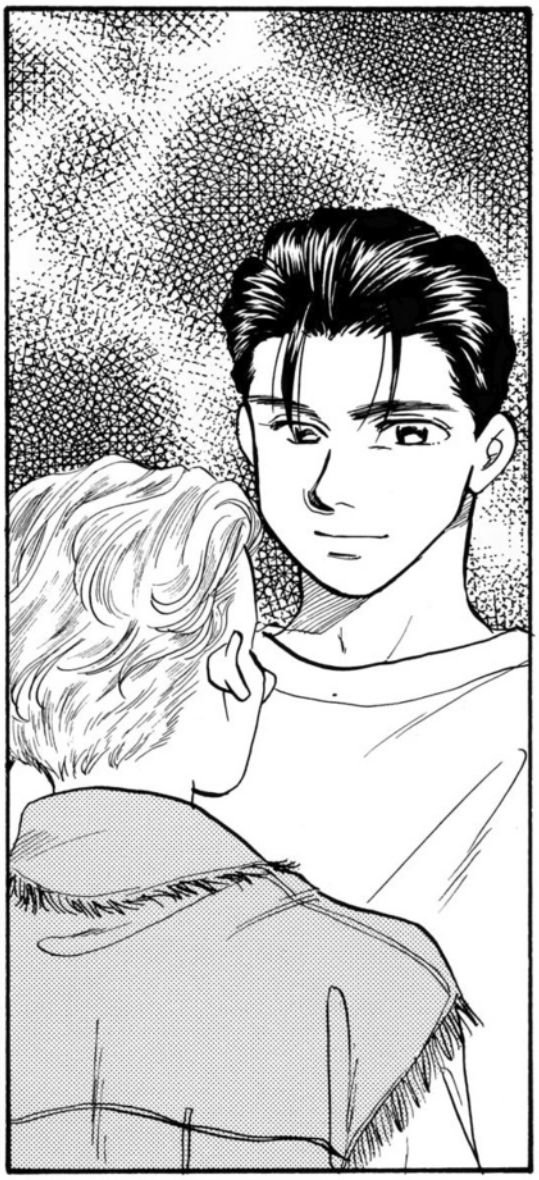
HA
HA
BYE!

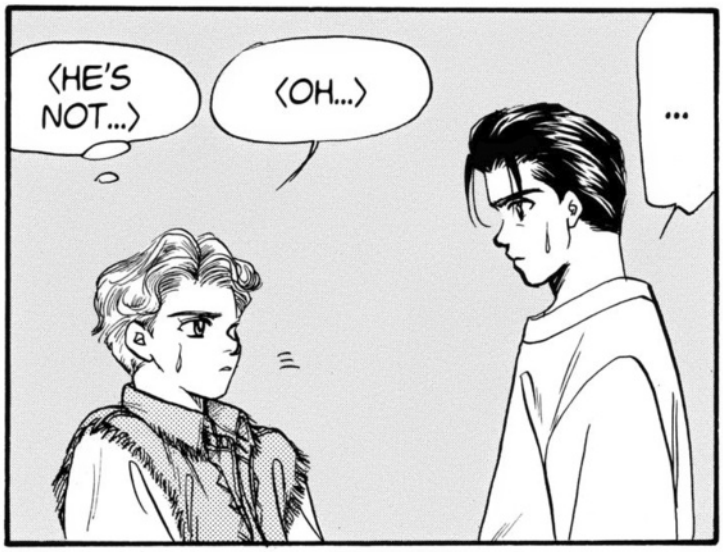
<SORRY. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?>

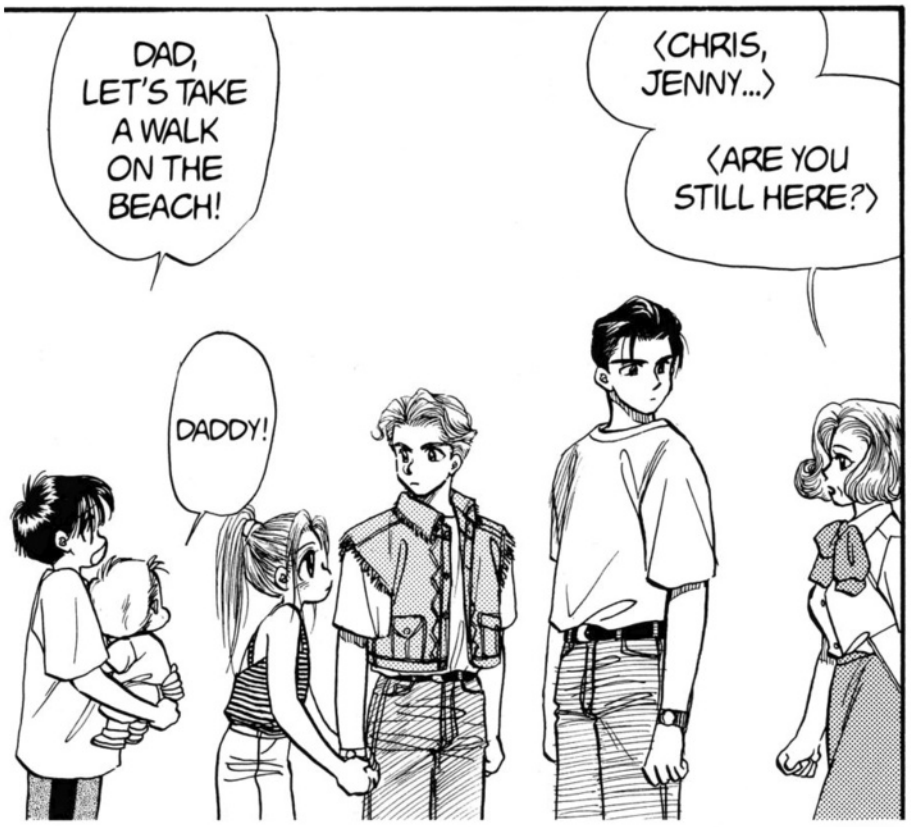
MRFF ...
WHOA!
FWUMP

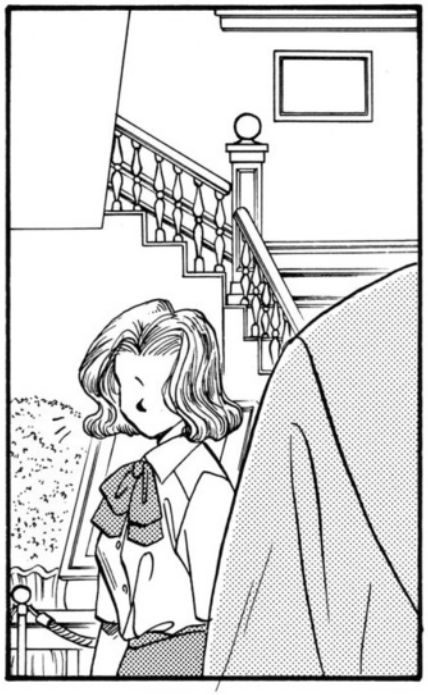
THAT GUY'S A JERK.
HMPH

?
〈DAD!〉



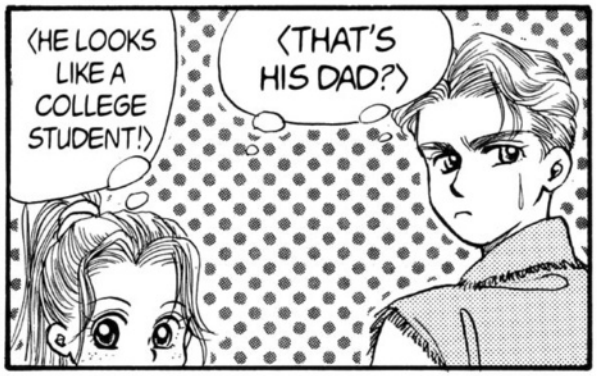

〈HE'S NOT...〉
〈OH...〉
...

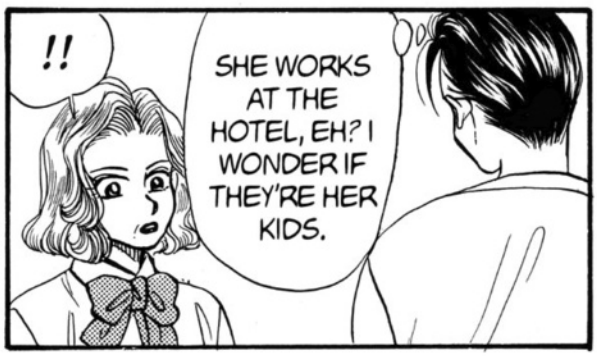

DAD, LET'S TAKE A WALK ON THE BEACH!
〈CHRIS, JENNY...〉
〈ARE YOU STILL HERE?〉
DADDY!



〈OH MY GOD...〉

〈HARRY!〉
WHAT?


〈HE LOOKS LIKE A COLLEGE STUDENT!〉
〈THAT'S HIS DAD?〉


!!
SHE WORKS AT THE HOTEL, EH? I WONDER IF THEY'RE HER KIDS.

〈SORRY.〉
〈YOU LOOK LIKE SOMEONE I KNEW.〉

OH... MAI... GADDO!
CHIEF! I CAUGHT THAT ONE!
...
OH

〈WELL, YOU TWO SHOULD GO HOME BEFORE IT GETS DARK.〉
〈THANKS FOR RUNNING THAT ERRAND FOR ME.〉
〈AUNT SHIRLEY, CAN I GO TO THE BEACH TOMORROW?〉
〈ALL RIGHT, BUT DON'T STAY OUT IN THE SUN TOO LONG.〉

THAT'S NOT IT! WILL YOU JUST SHUT UP FOR A WHILE?
SHE THINKS YOU'RE HER GOD!
THAT MEANS, "OH! MY GOD!"

Author's Note: Part 5

This chapter, which takes place in Hawaii, was a New Year's Special, so I had 50 pages to work with.

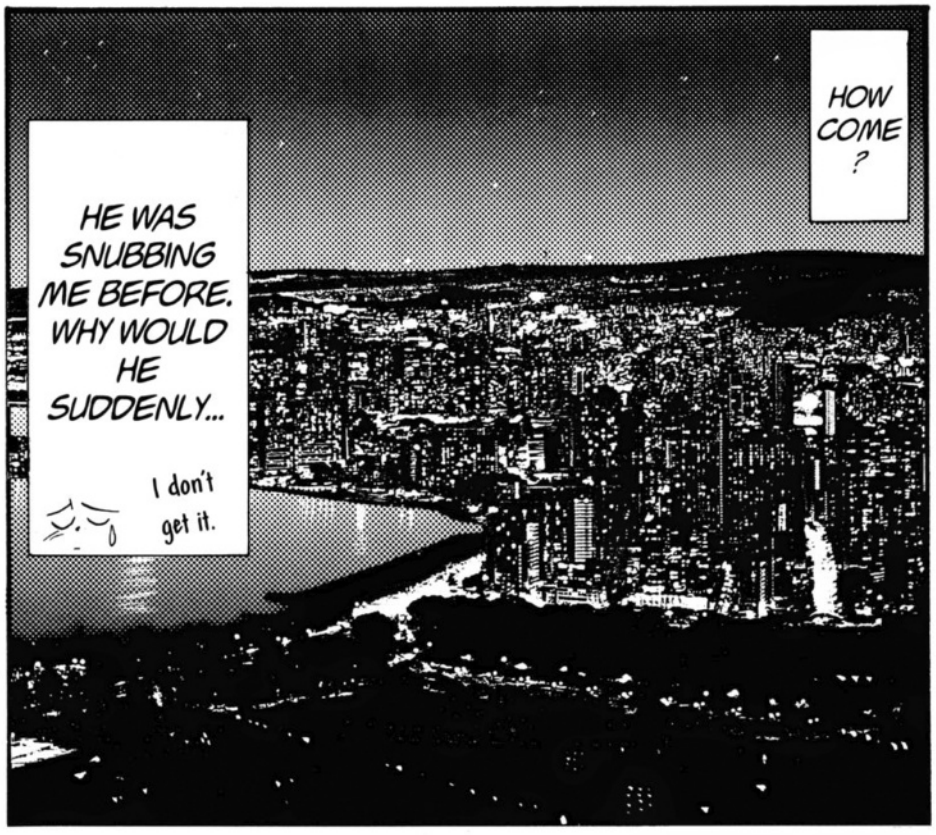
My editor said, "Since we have 50 pages, why don't you do a story set somewhere exotic?" It was decided that there would be some foreign characters, too. But even though I had 50 pages, it still wasn't enough for me. I had to delete a lot of scenes. Sigh...

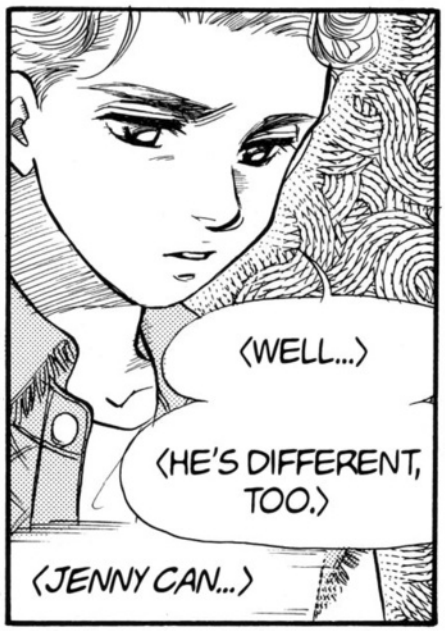
Please read this chapter as a *Baby and Me* extra.

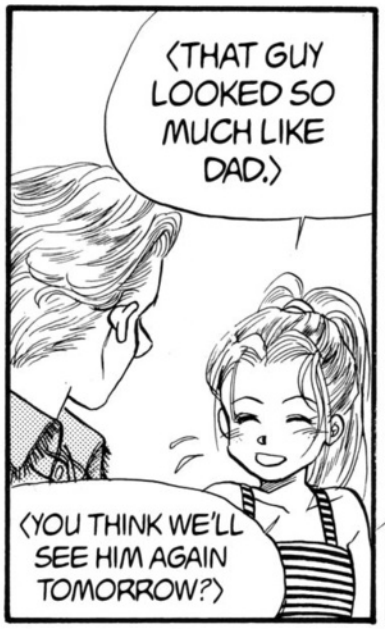
Peach boy
=
Momotaro,
the fairy-tale baby who was found in a giant peach.

BOING

I'm not sure what Chris meant by that. Only he knows for sure.

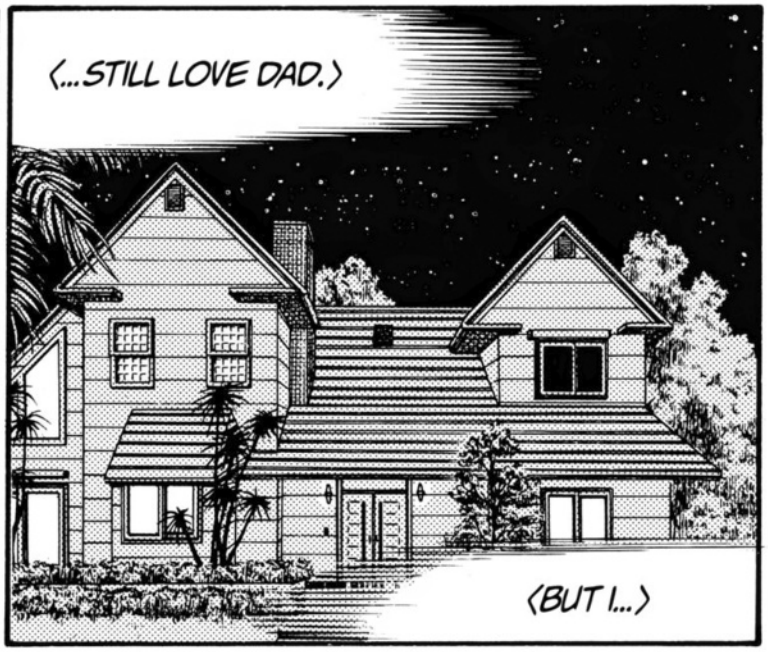



<WELL...>
<HE'S DIFFERENT, TOO.>
<JENNY CAN...>


<THAT GUY LOOKED SO MUCH LIKE DAD.>
<YOU THINK WE'LL SEE HIM AGAIN TOMORROW?>

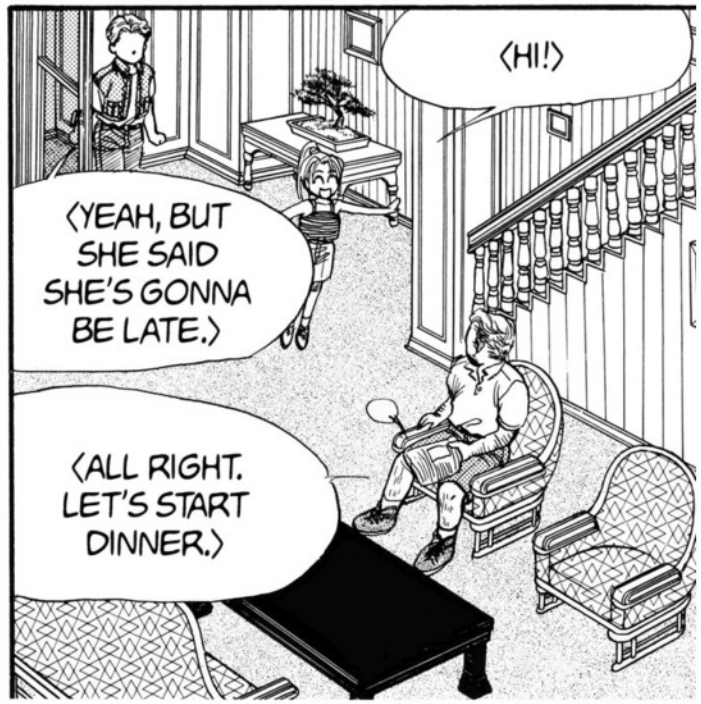
<CHRIS.>
A.B.C. Store
WUNN
WUNN

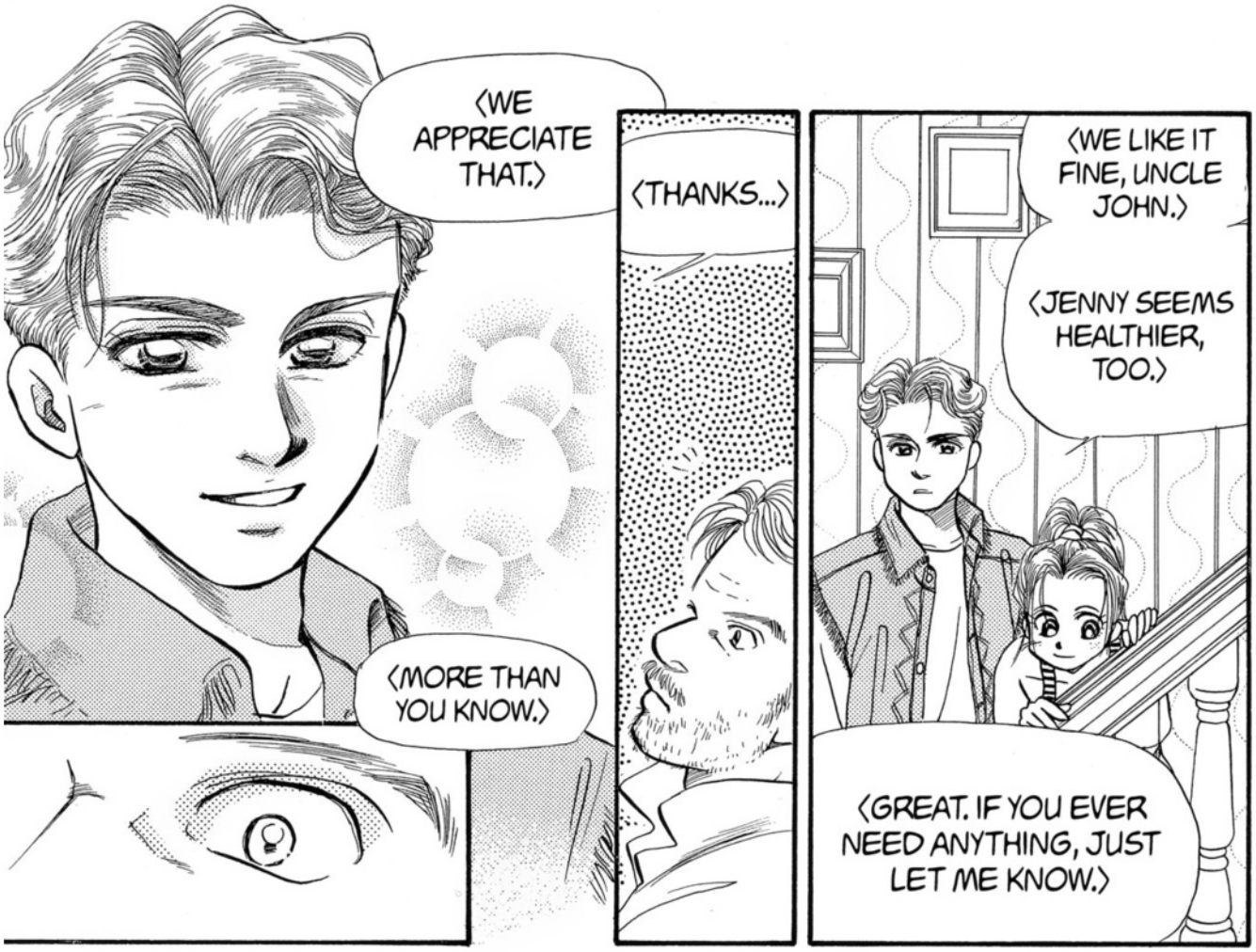
KLAK
<YOU'RE HOME! DID YOU FIND AUNT SHIRLEY?>

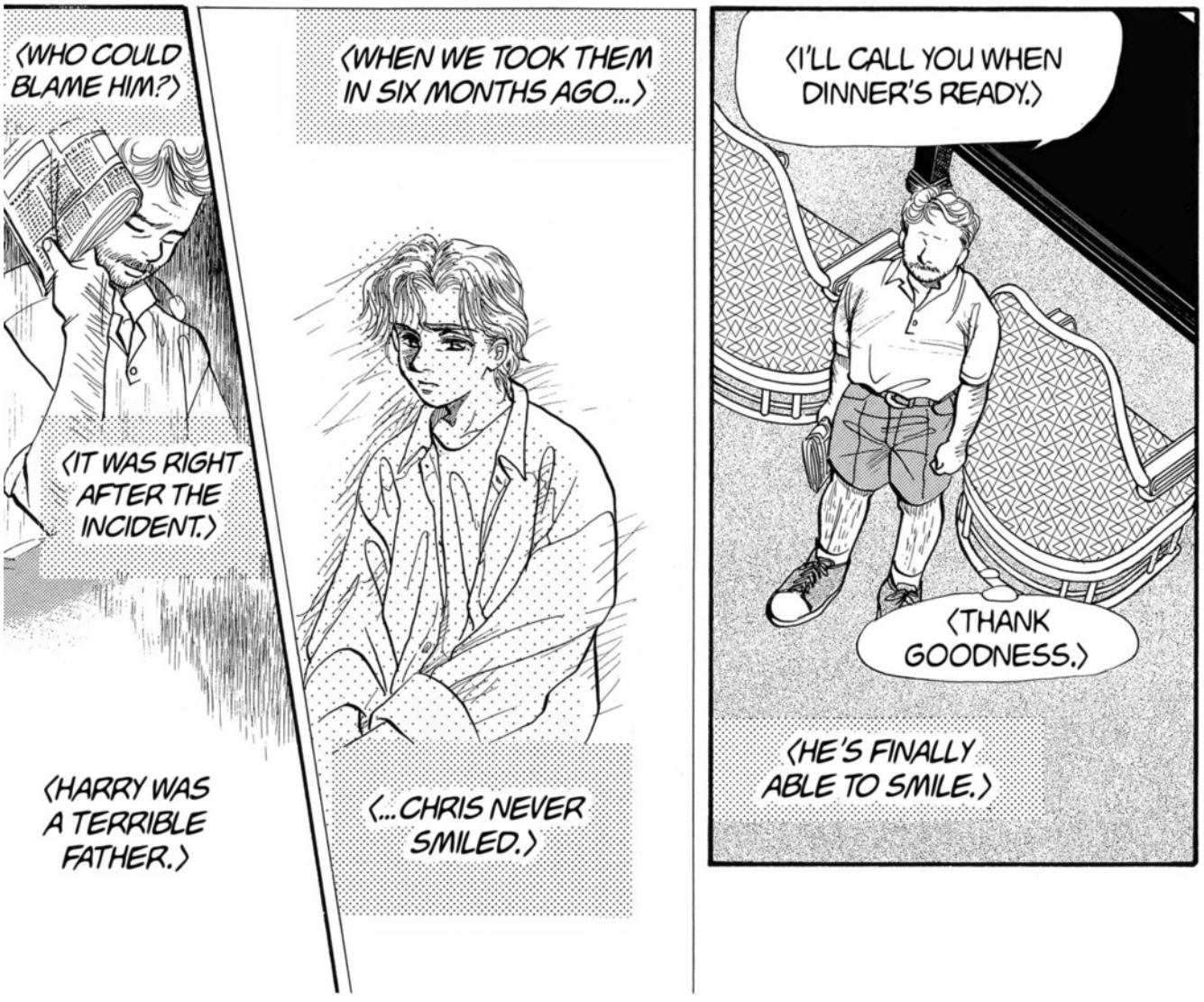

<...STILL LOVE DAD.>
<BUT I...>

<HOW DO YOU LIKE LIVING HERE?>
<I GUESS LIFE'S A LOT SIMPLER THAN ON THE MAINLAND.>

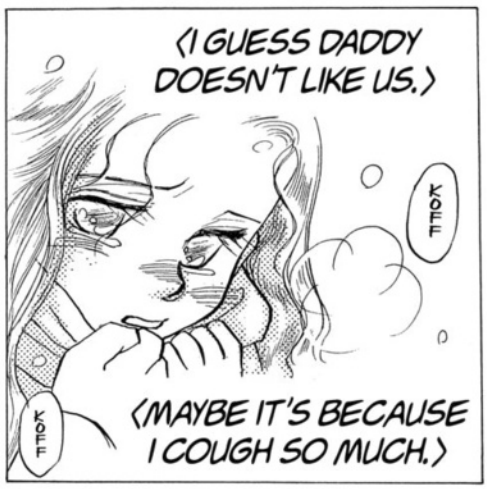
<SO...>
<...WHAT DO YOU THINK?>


<HI!>
<YEAH, BUT SHE SAID SHE'S GONNA BE LATE.>
<ALL RIGHT. LET'S START DINNER.>


<WE APPRECIATE THAT.>
<MORE THAN YOU KNOW.>
<THANKS...>
<WE LIKE IT FINE, UNCLE JOHN.>
<JENNY SEEMS HEALTHIER, TOO.>
<GREAT. IF YOU EVER NEED ANYTHING, JUST LET ME KNOW.>

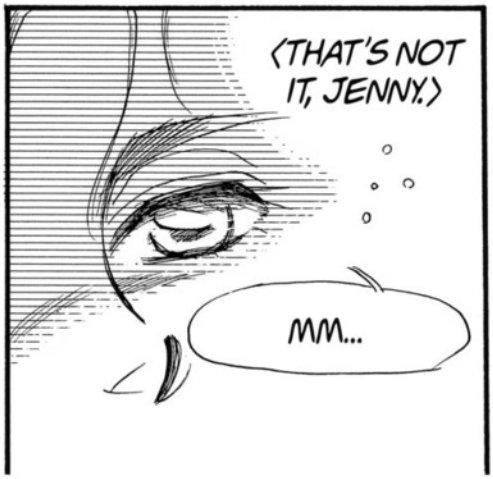

<WHO COULD BLAME HIM?>
<IT WAS RIGHT AFTER THE INCIDENT.>
<HARRY WAS A TERRIBLE FATHER.>
<WHEN WE TOOK THEM IN SIX MONTHS AGO...>
<...CHRIS NEVER SMILED.>
<I'LL CALL YOU WHEN DINNER'S READY.>
<THANK GOODNESS.>
<HE'S FINALLY ABLE TO SMILE.>

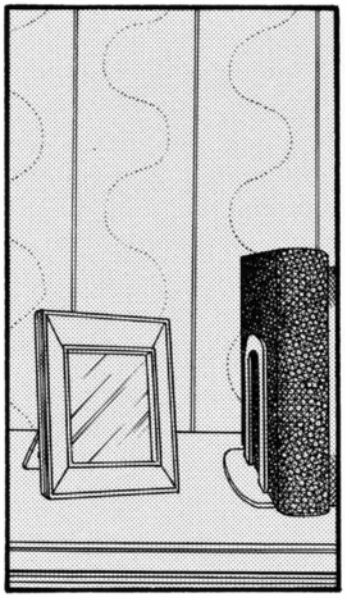
KREESH
RAGER MILD
<CHRIS!!>
<CHRIS...>
<CHRIS...>
<QUIT DRINKING? DON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT TO DO!!>
<YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER'N ME, DON'T YA?>
RAGER MILD


<I GUESS DADDY DOESN'T LIKE US.>
KOFF
KOFF
<MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I COUGH SO MUCH.>

<WHY WAS DAD YELLING AT YOU, CHRIS?>
<I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE HE DOESN'T LIKE TO HEAR THE TRUTH.>

<YOU MAKE ME SICK, YA LOUSY PUNK!>
<GET OUT!>


<THAT'S NOT IT, JENNY.>
MM...



AH

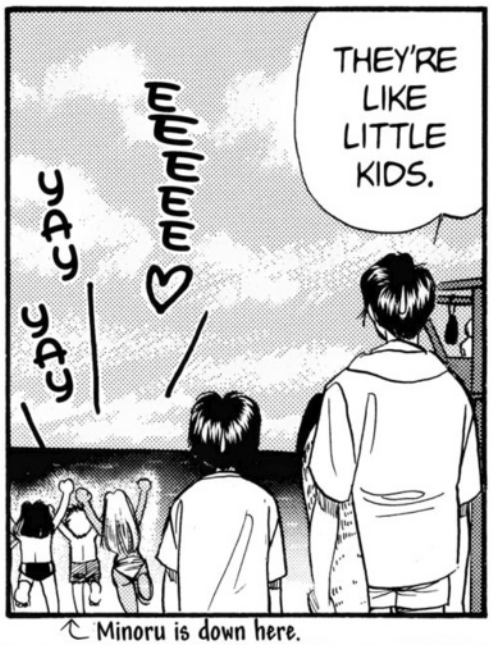
<OH...>
<I MUST'VE DOZED OFF.>

<ARRGH!>
<I HATE YOU!>

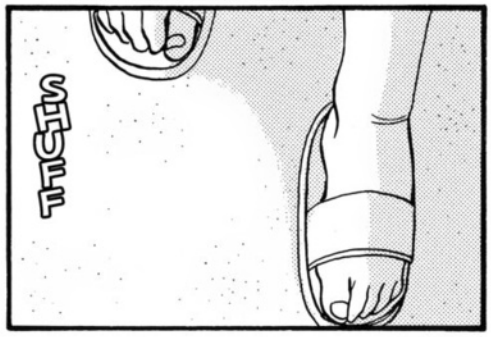
...!!

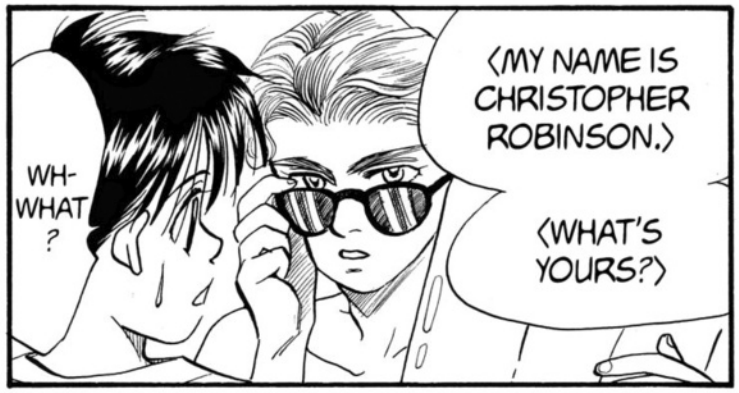
THWAK

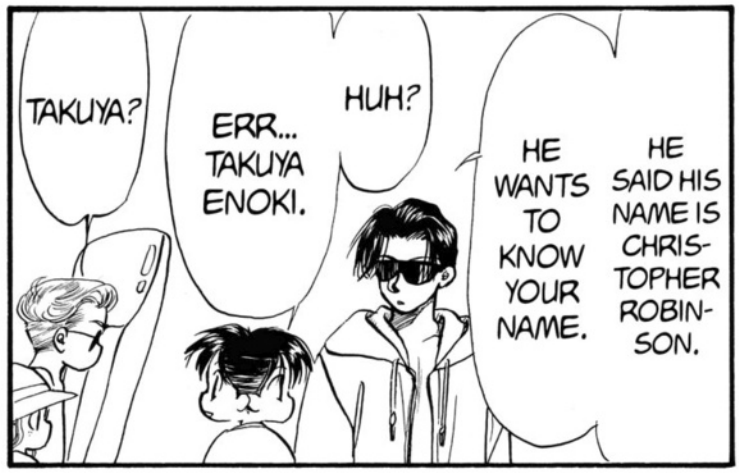
SPLASH



Minoru is down here.

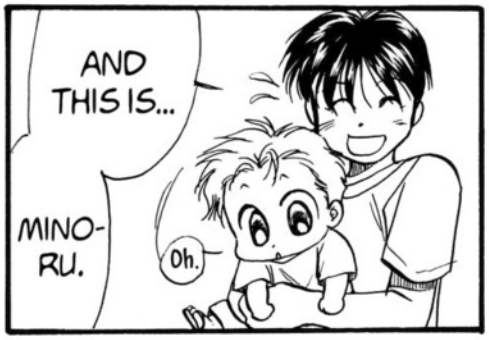


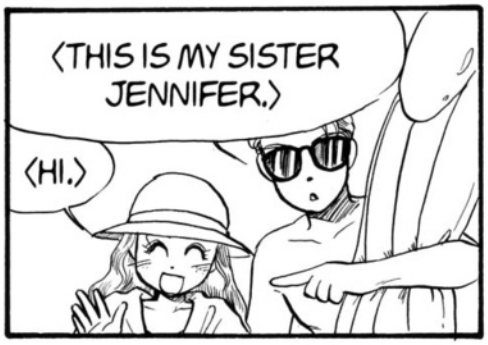




JENI-FAA!
KURISU-TOFAA!

IS HE TALKING SLOWLY FOR ME?
JENNI-FER...I CAUGHT THAT.
UMM ...


AND THIS IS...
MINO-RU.
Oh.

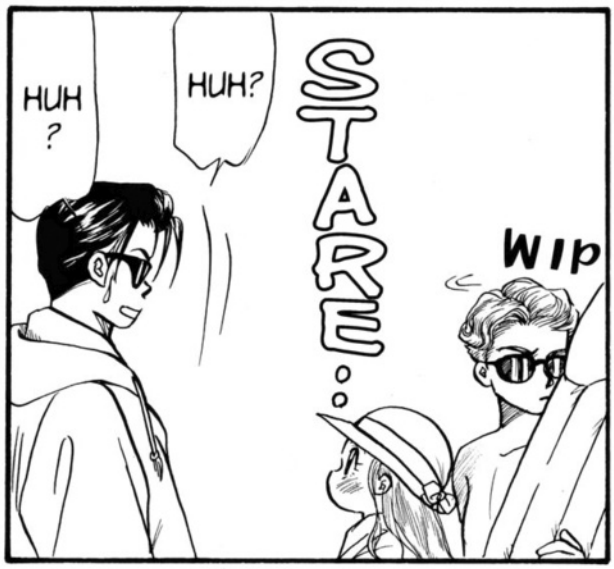

〈THIS IS MY SISTER JENNIFER.〉
〈HI.〉

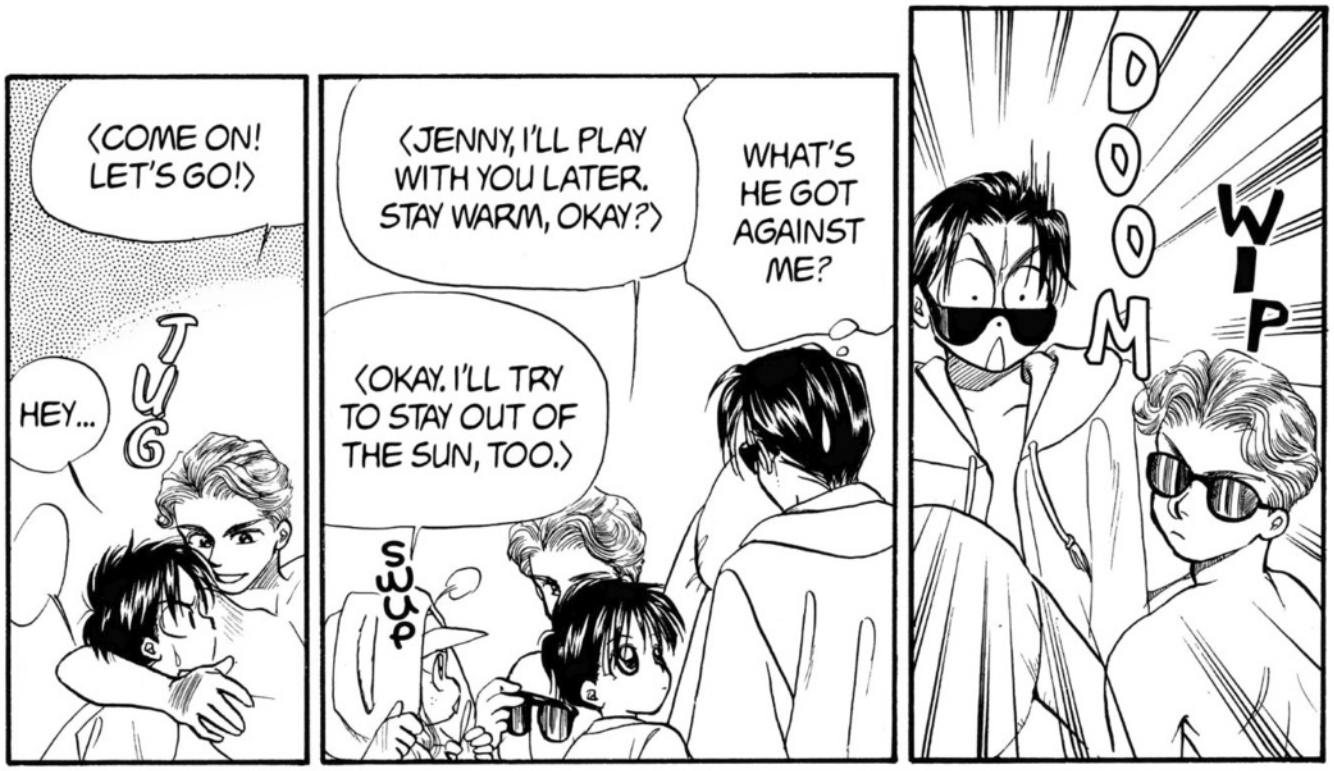
HA HA...

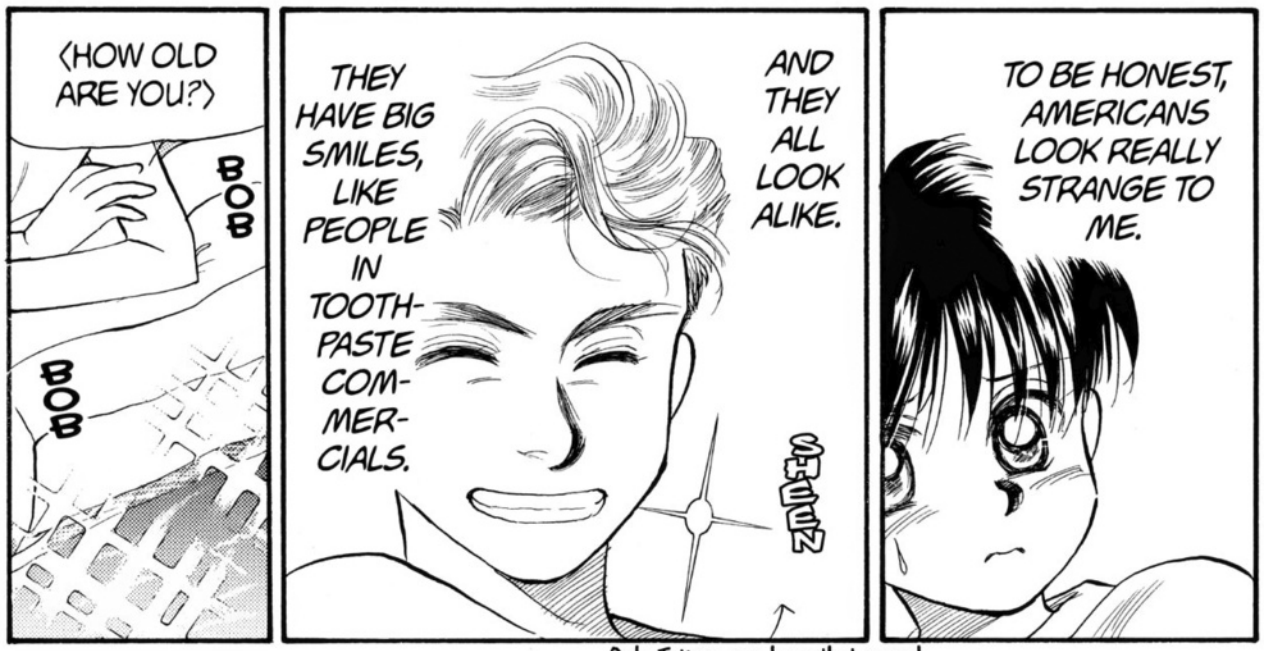
IT'S OKAY.
DAD, WHY IS SHE LAUGH-ING?
SHE SAYS THEIR NAMES ARE TOO LONG, SO JUST CALL THEM CHRIS AND JENNY.
How cute.
PAT

〈JUST CALL US...〉
〈...CHRIS AND JENNY.〉
〈WAS THAT OUR NAMES? HE TALKS SO WEIRD.〉
HA HA HA
HEE
HEE

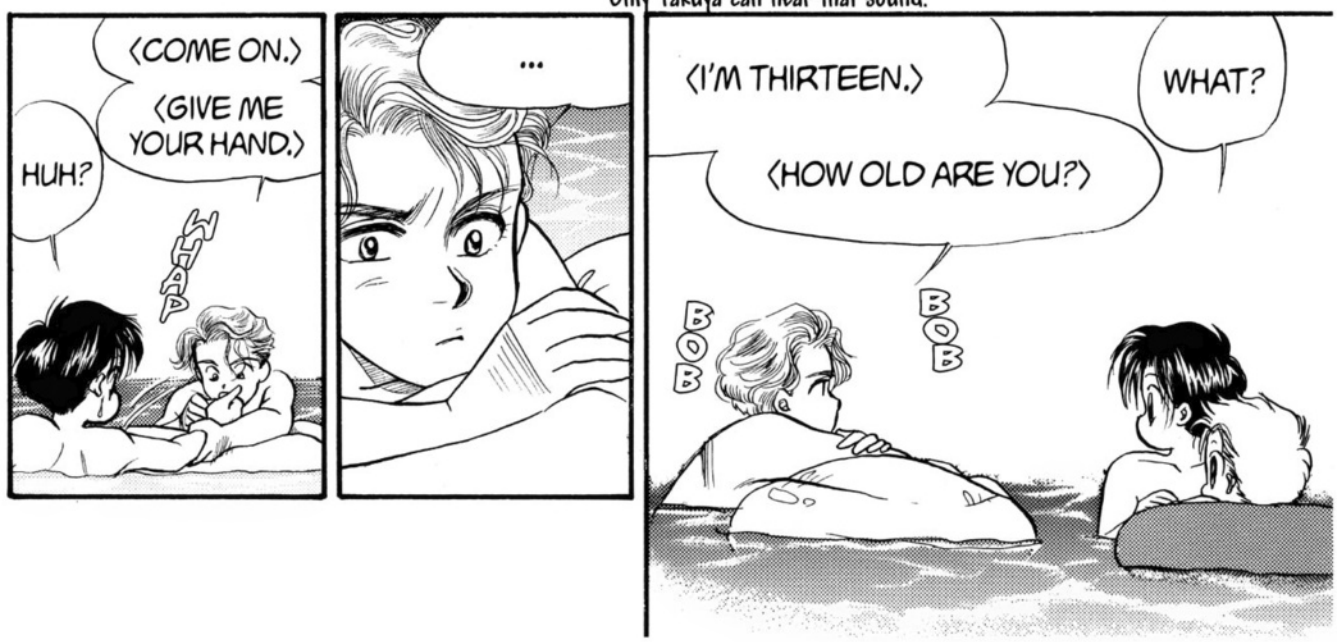
THAT BOY WON'T EVEN LOOK AT ME.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HEEH

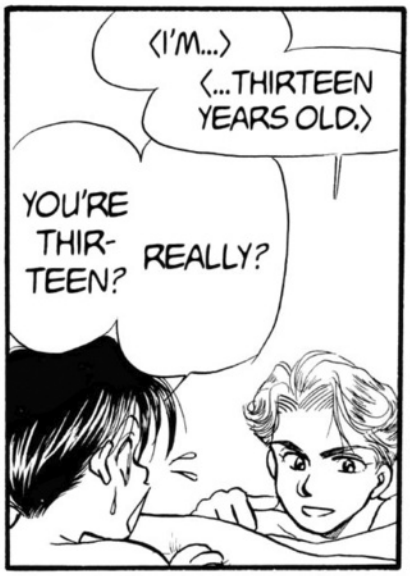

HUH ?
HUH?
STARE...
WIP





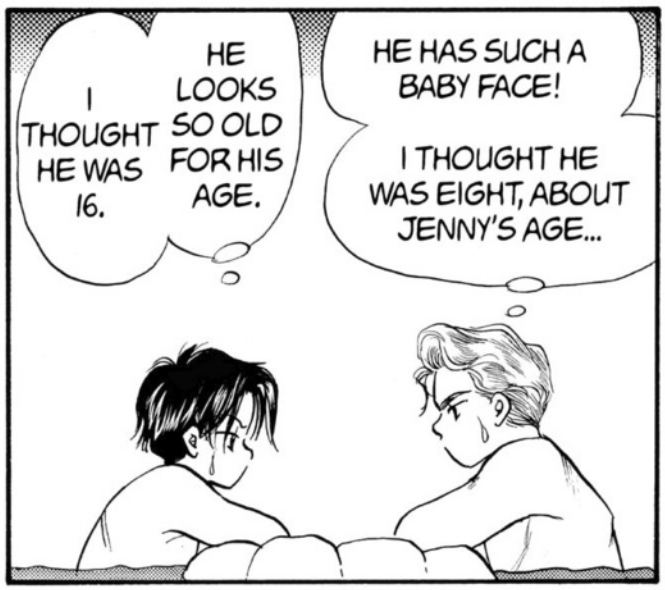
Only Takuya can hear that sound.



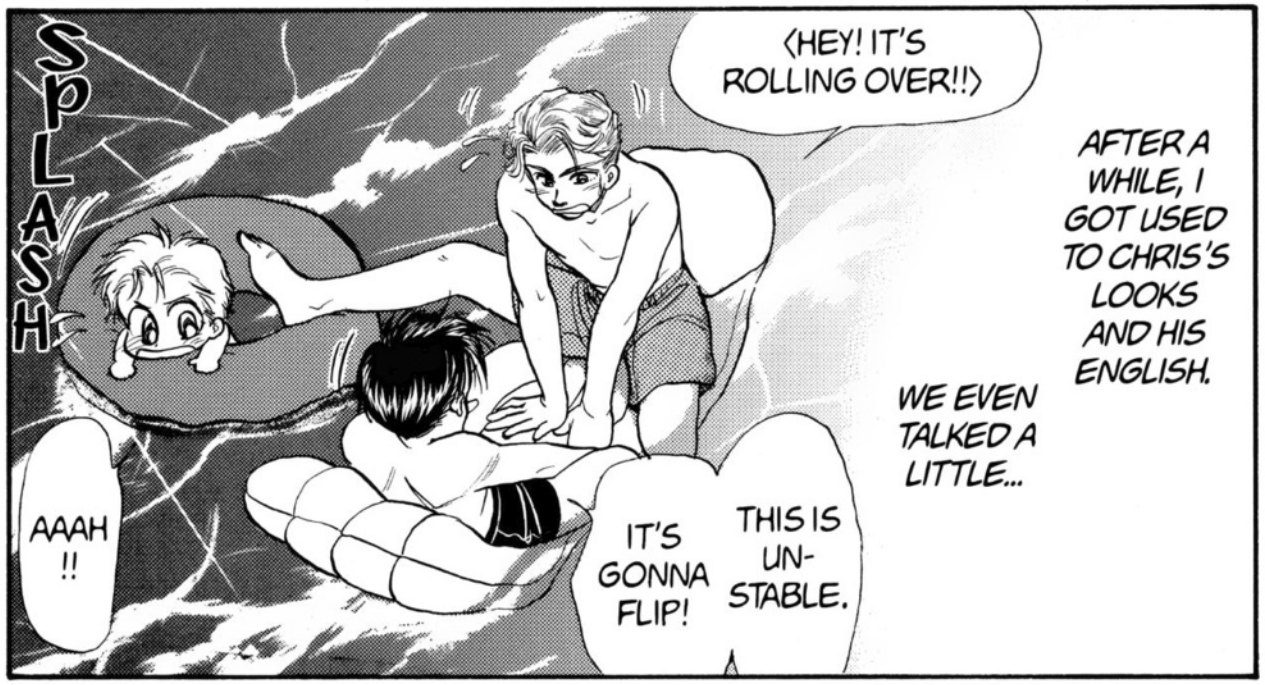

〈I'M...〉
〈...THIRTEEN YEARS OLD.〉
YOU'RE THIR-TEEN?
REALLY?

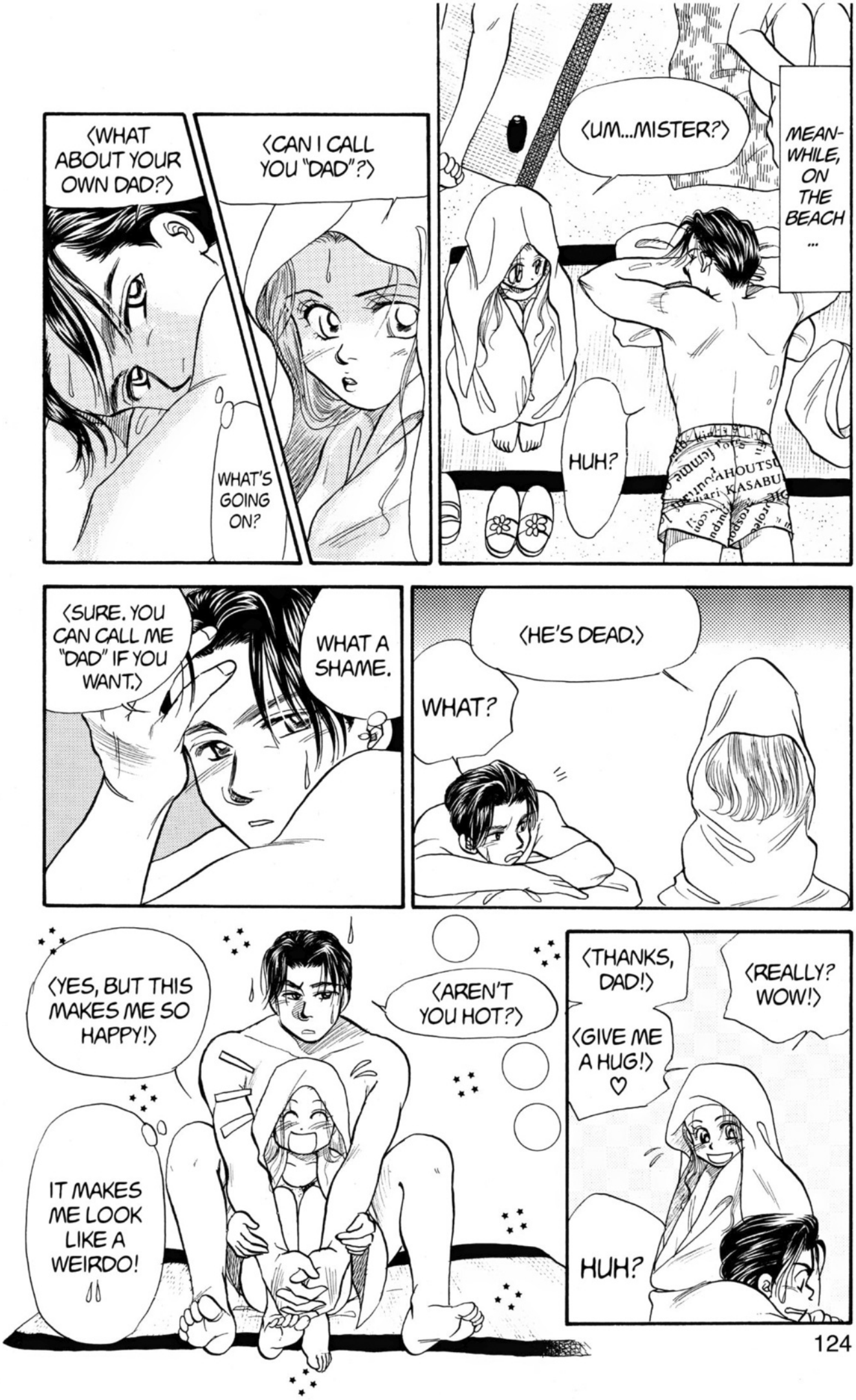
〈JUMP TO...〉
〈THIRTEEN!〉
OH! THIR-TEEN!

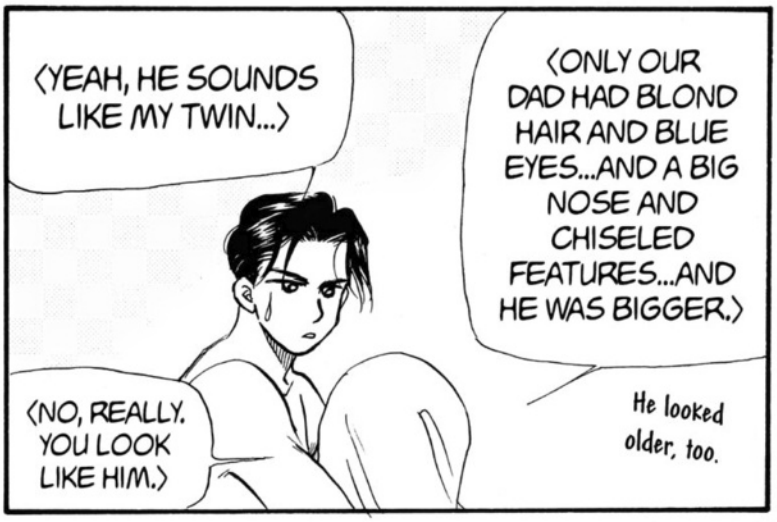
〈ONE...〉
〈TWO...〉
ONE ...
TWO...

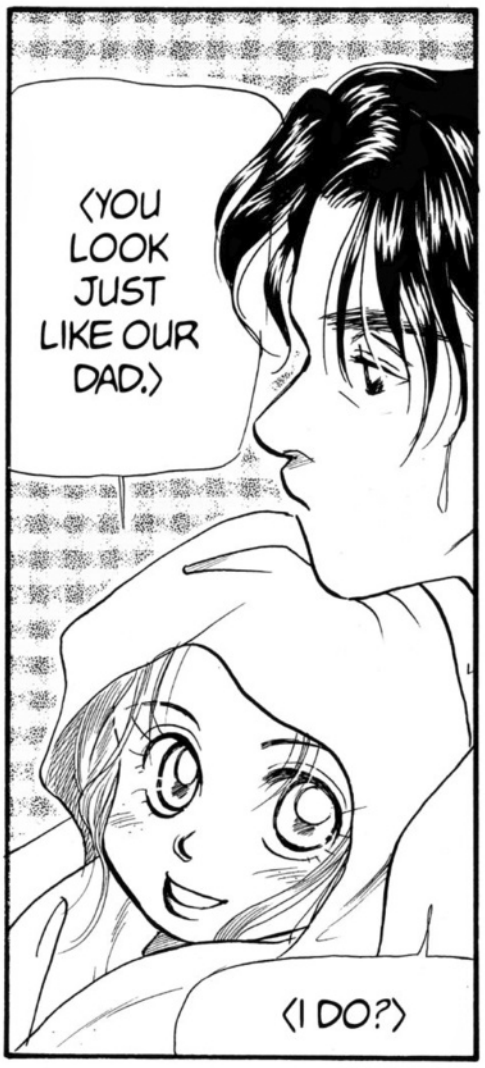

I THOUGHT HE WAS 16.
HE LOOKS SO OLD FOR HIS AGE.
HE HAS SUCH A BABY FACE!
I THOUGHT HE WAS EIGHT, ABOUT JENNY'S AGE...

〈WHAT?〉
〈TWELVE?〉
〈REALLY?〉
〈NO KIDDING!〉
ONE, TWO, JUMP TO...
... TWELVE !!
OKAY, LISTEN.
DUH
bored

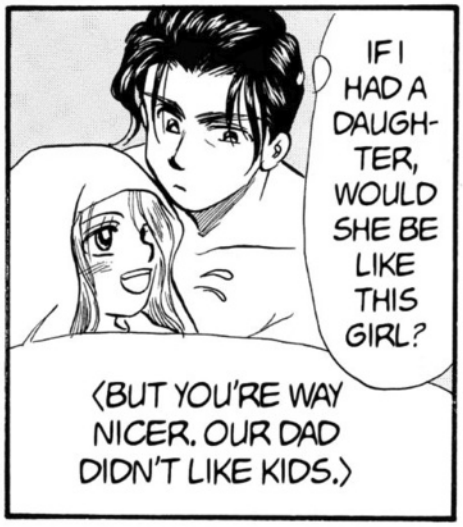

SPLASH
〈HEY! IT'S ROLLING OVER!!〉
AFTER A WHILE, I GOT USED TO CHRIS'S LOOKS AND HIS ENGLISH.
WE EVEN TALKED A LITTLE...
AAAH !!
IT'S GONNA FLIP!
THIS IS UN-STABLE.


〈WHAT ABOUT YOUR OWN DAD?〉
〈CAN I CALL YOU "DAD"?〉
WHAT'S GOING ON?
〈UM...MISTER?〉
MEAN-WHILE, ON THE BEACH ...
HUH?
〈SURE. YOU CAN CALL ME "DAD" IF YOU WANT.〉
WHAT A SHAME.
〈HE'S DEAD.〉
WHAT?
〈YES, BUT THIS MAKES ME SO HAPPY!〉
〈AREN'T YOU HOT?〉
IT MAKES ME LOOK LIKE A WEIRDO!
〈THANKS, DAD!〉
〈REALLY? WOW!〉
〈GIVE ME A HUG!〉 ♡
HUH?


〈YEAH, HE SOUNDS LIKE MY TWIN...〉
〈ONLY OUR DAD HAD BLOND HAIR AND BLUE EYES...AND A BIG NOSE AND CHISELED FEATURES...AND HE WAS BIGGER.〉
〈NO, REALLY. YOU LOOK LIKE HIM.〉
He looked older, too.

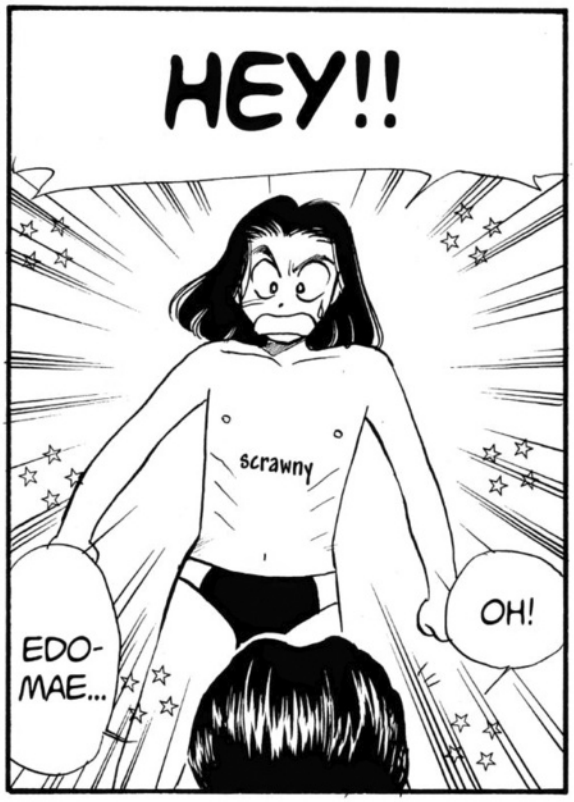

〈YOU LOOK JUST LIKE OUR DAD.〉
〈I DO?〉

But I'm not his dad.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY HER BROTHER DOESN'T LIKE ME.
HMM

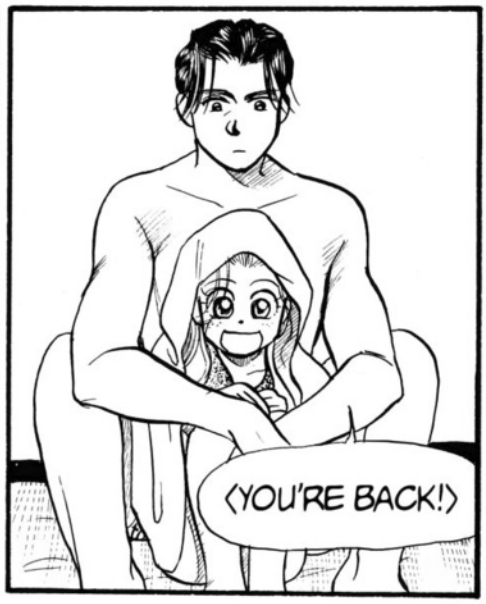

IF I HAD A DAUGHTER, WOULD SHE BE LIKE THIS GIRL?
〈BUT YOU'RE WAY NICER. OUR DAD DIDN'T LIKE KIDS.〉

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CHIEF, YOU CAN'T DO THIS! IT'S KIDNAPPING!

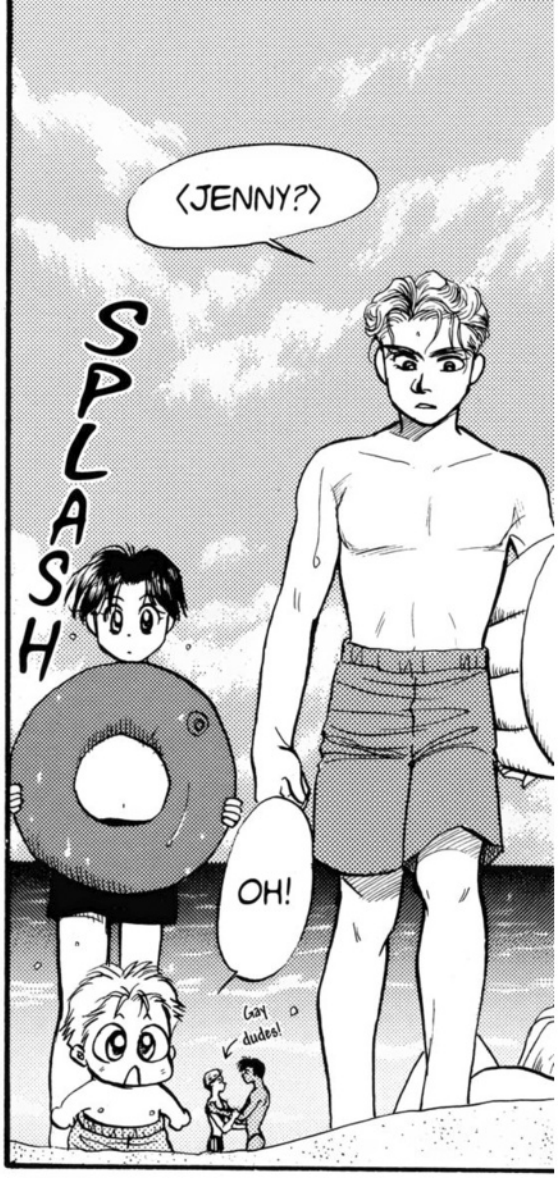
GET OUTTA HERE!
THWAK
Dad's foot
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT LITTLE GIRL?


HEY!!
scrawny
EDO-MAE...
OH!

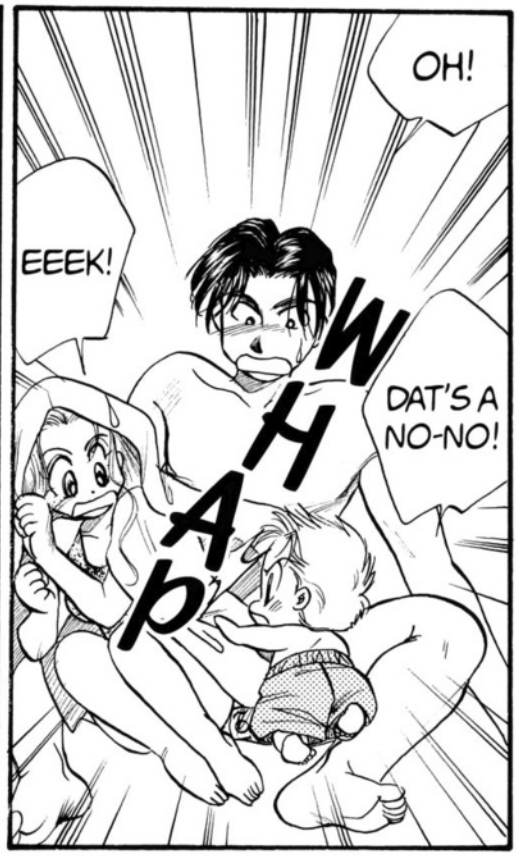
...


<YOU'RE BACK!>

GRRRR


<JENNY?>
SPLASH
OH!
Gay dudes!

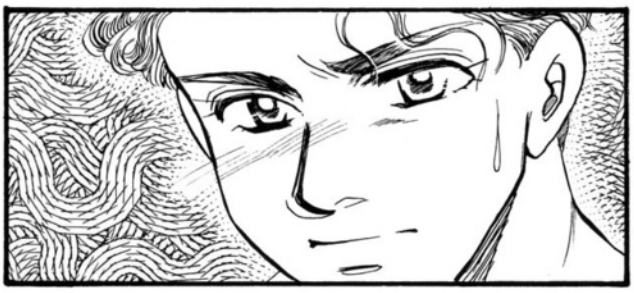
M-MINORU!
CALM DOWN!
NO!! MY DADDY!
WHUP

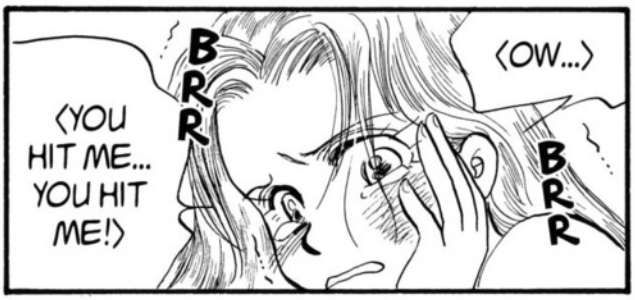

OH!
EEEK!
DAT'S A NO-NO!
WHAP

MINO-RU?
TUP TUP TUP

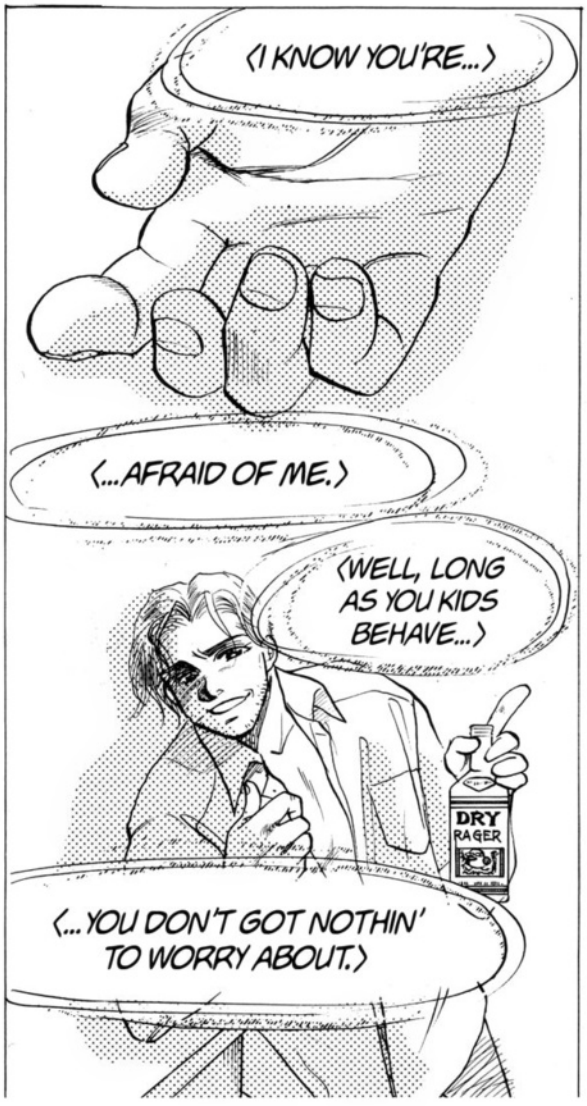
〈WHAT?〉
YIKES
〈JENNY!!〉
〈YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A DUMB LITTLE KID!〉
〈OUR FATHER'S DEAD!!〉
〈YOU'RE CHASING DAD'S MEMORY EVEN MORE THAN I AM!〉
〈OH, YEAH?〉
〈LIKE YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!〉
〈YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT THIS GUY, TOO!〉
〈AND MAKING FRIENDS WITH HIS SON!〉
〈WHAT DO YOU MEAN?〉

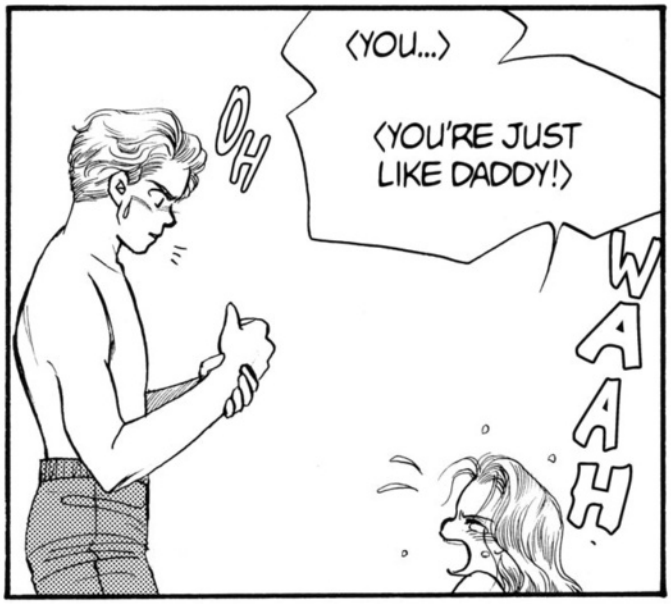
...

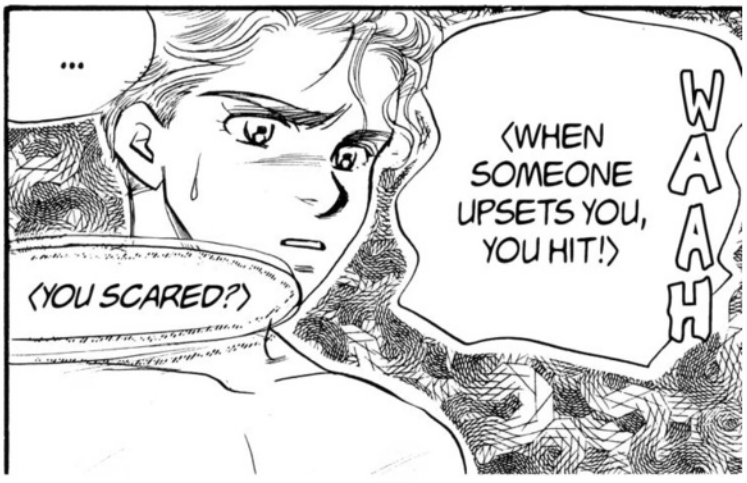



BRR
<YOU HIT ME... YOU HIT ME!>
<OW...>
BRR

SWAK


<I KNOW YOU'RE...>
<...AFRAID OF ME.>
<WELL, LONG AS YOU KIDS BEHAVE...>
DRY RAGER
<... YOU DON'T GOT NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT.>

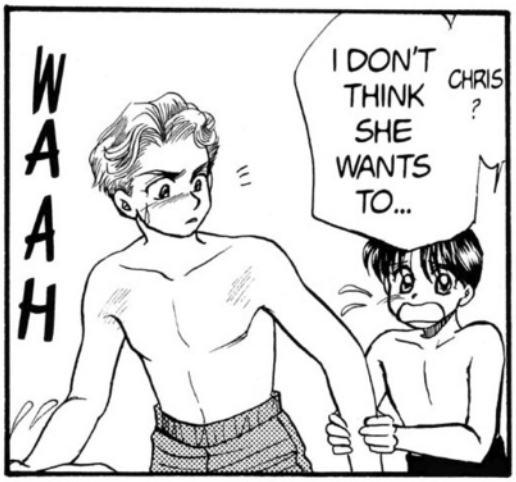

OH
<YOU...>
<YOU'RE JUST LIKE DADDY!>
WAAH


...
<YOU SCARED?>
<WHEN SOMEONE UPSETS YOU, YOU HIT!>
WAAH

〈FORGET IT! LET'S GO HOME!〉
〈STUPID!〉
〈I'M SO STUPID!!〉

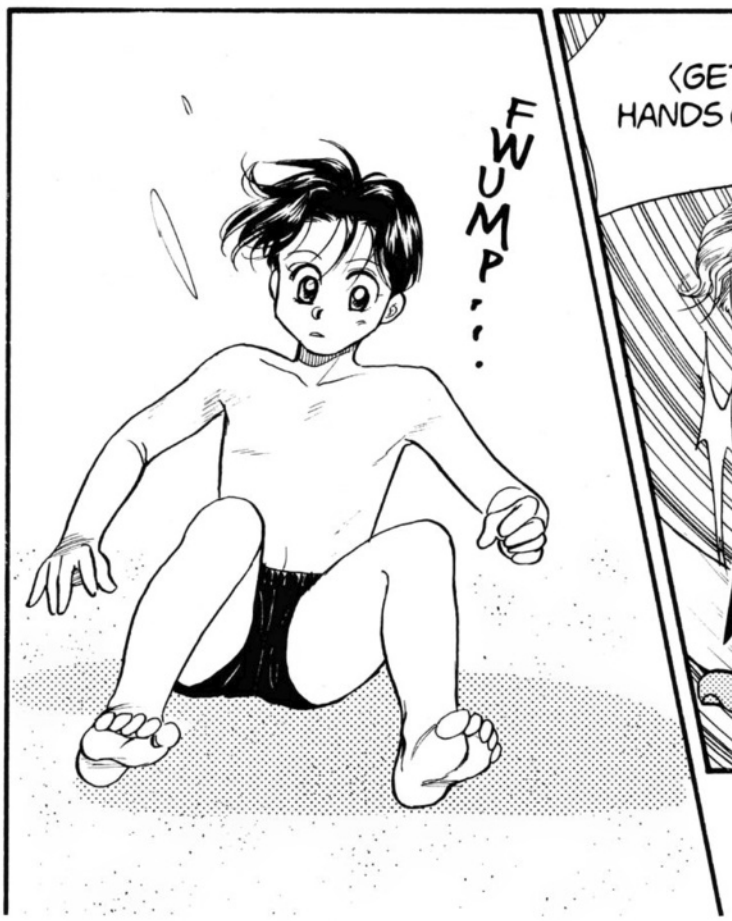
〈LET'S GO HOME, JENNY.〉
〈I WANNA SWIM FIRST!〉
WAAH

〈HA HA HA HA...〉
〈JENNY...〉


WAAH
I DON'T THINK SHE WANTS TO...
CHRIS?

〈WHAT AM I TRYING TO DO?〉
〈I'M HAUNTED BY HIS SHADOW!〉

〈KEEP OUT OF OUR BUSINESS!〉
...


FWUMP...

〈GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!!〉
WHAM

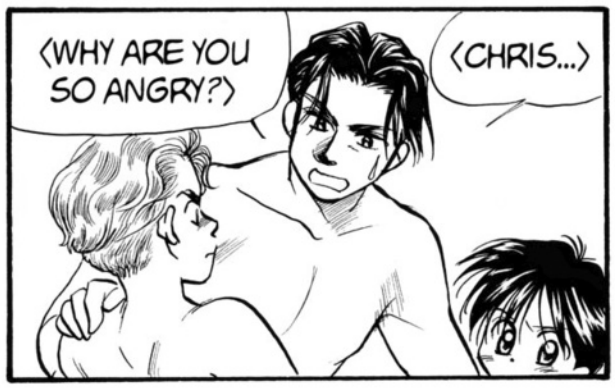
〈SHUT UP...〉
〈PEACH BOY!〉
OW!!
KSHH

YOU'RE A JERK, YOU KNOW THAT?

sand 66

AGH!!
KSHH
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

KNOWS HE'S BEEN INSULTED.
GRR

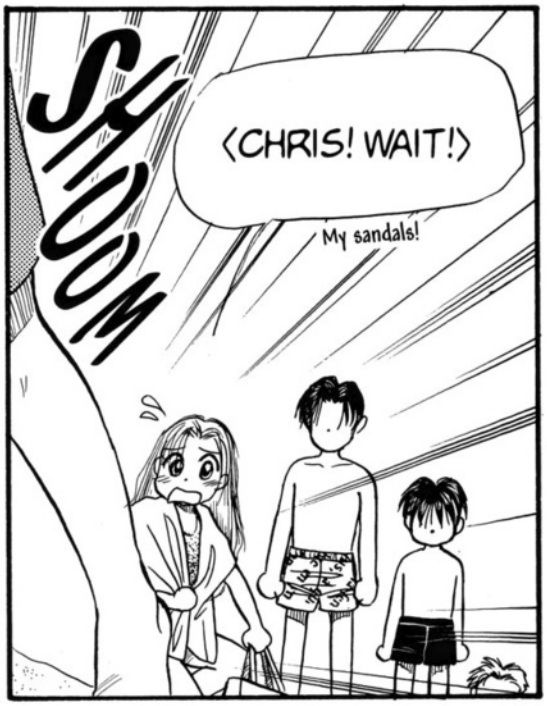

〈WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY?〉
〈CHRIS...〉

〈I JUST REALIZED WHAT A PAIN YOU ARE!〉
WHAP

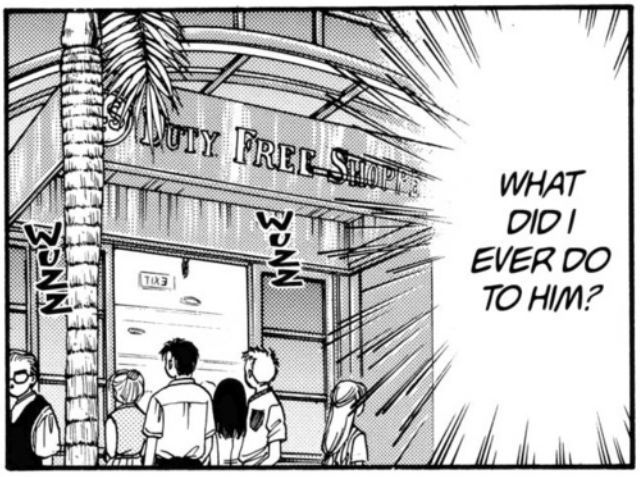
THAT'S ENOUGH, BOTH OF YOU!
STOP IT!!
WHUP

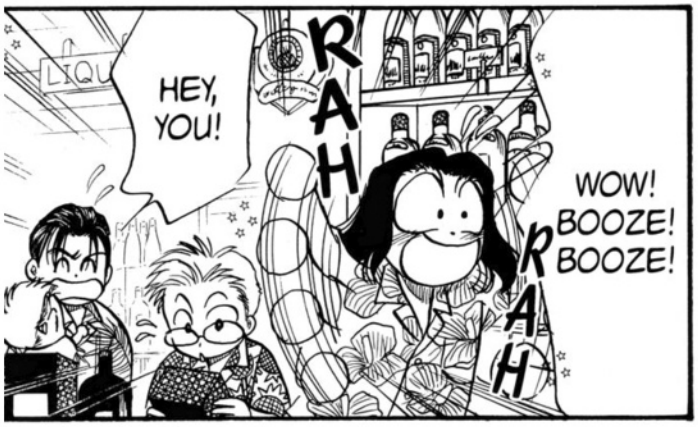
A PAIN?
DID HE SAY I WAS A PAIN?
WHA...?

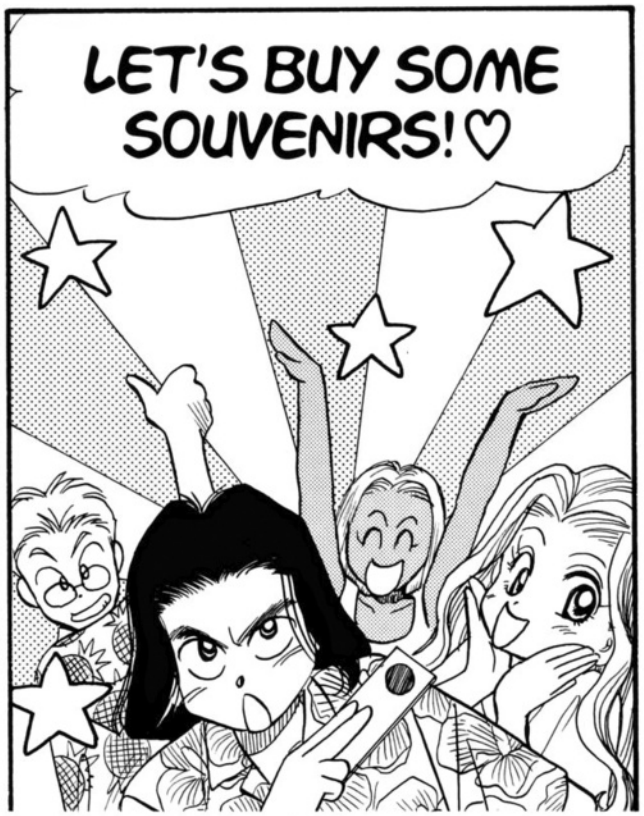
DAD?


SHOOM
<CHRIS! WAIT!>
My sandals!

CHIEF, YOU LOOK A LITTLE DE-PRESSED ...
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE, OKAY?
NO PROB-LEM. WE'LL BE QUIET. ♡
THAT'S A LIE...

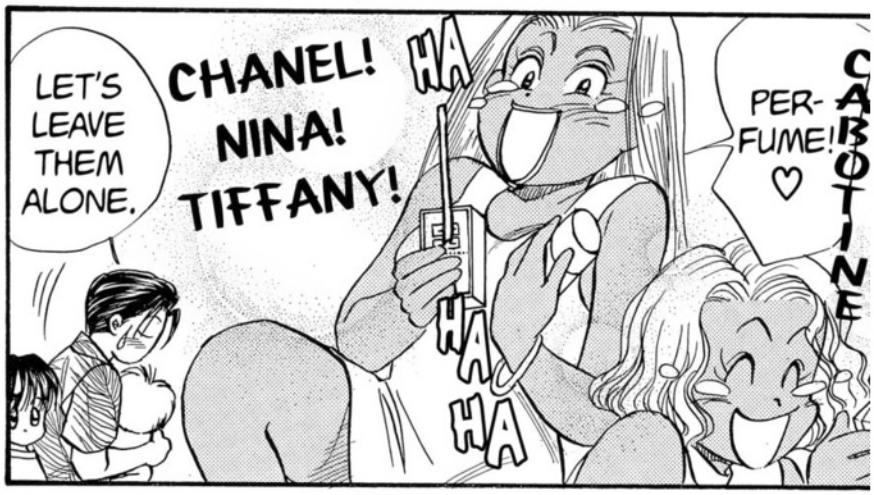

WUNN
WUNN
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO HIM?

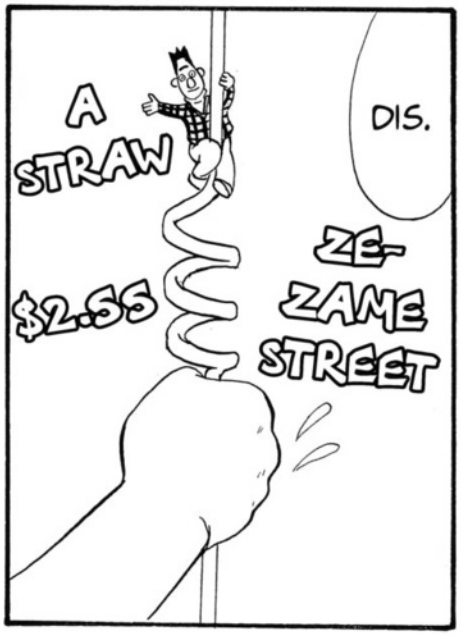

HEY, YOU!
RAH
RAH
WOW! BOOZE! BOOZE!

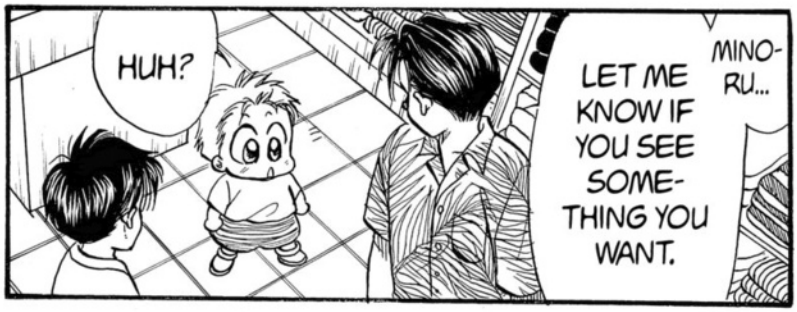

LET'S BUY SOME SOUVENIRS! ♡

UM... DADDY...
SHY
I WAN' ...
SHY
UH?

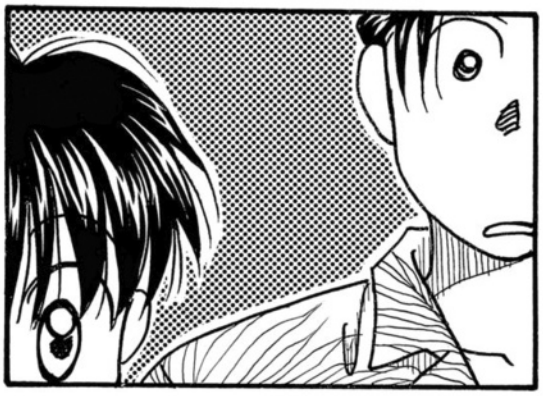
STOP RUN-NING!
NINA RICCI !!
EEEEK
RICCI
EEEEK
GUCCI !!
TMP TMP TMP TMP

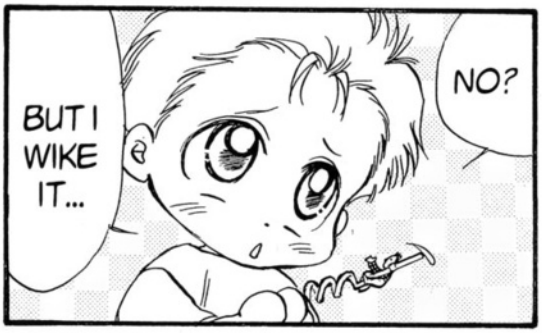

LET'S LEAVE THEM ALONE.
CHANEL! NINA! TIFFANY!
HA
HA HA
PER-FUME! ♡
CARTIER

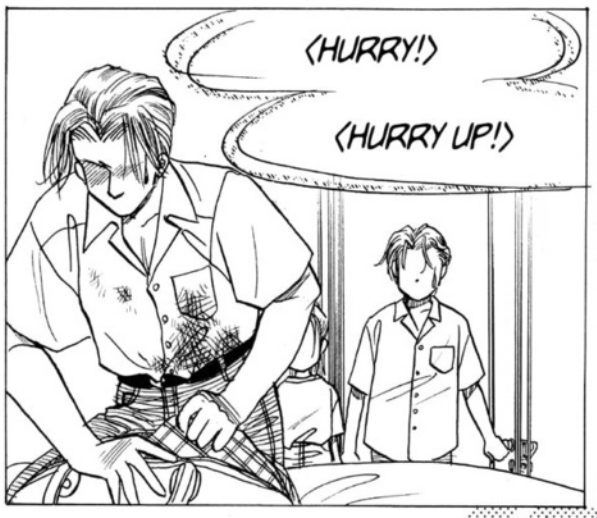

A STRAW
$2.55
DIS.
ZE-ZAME STREET


HUH?
LET ME KNOW IF YOU SEE SOME-THING YOU WANT.
MINO-RU...

...
BLAB
YACK
YACK
YACK
HE'S SO CUTE. ♡
YOU CAN HAVE IT.
IT'S OKAY.
TMP TMP TMP TMP
HUH?

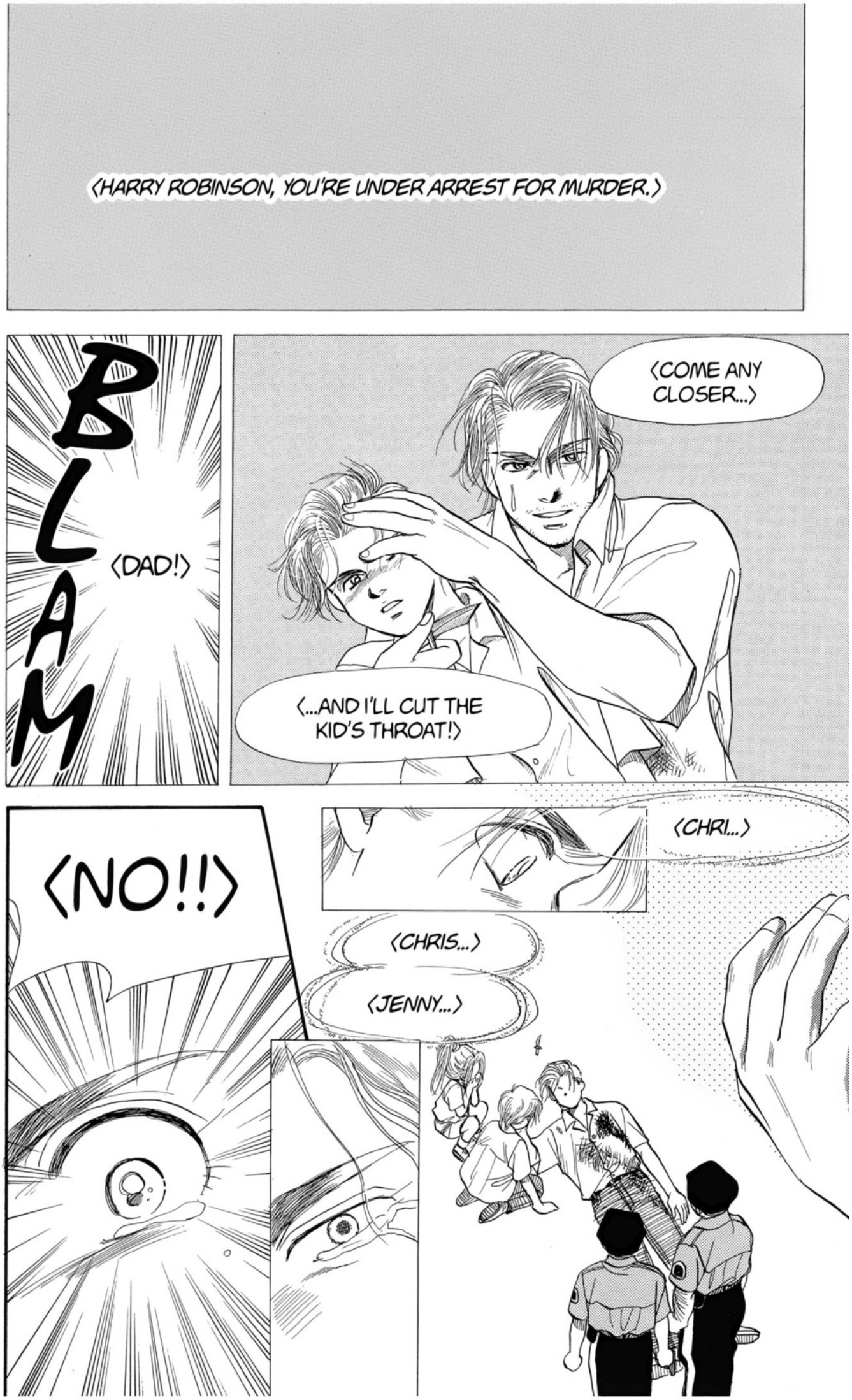



BUT I WIKE IT...
NO?



〈IT'S BLOOD!〉

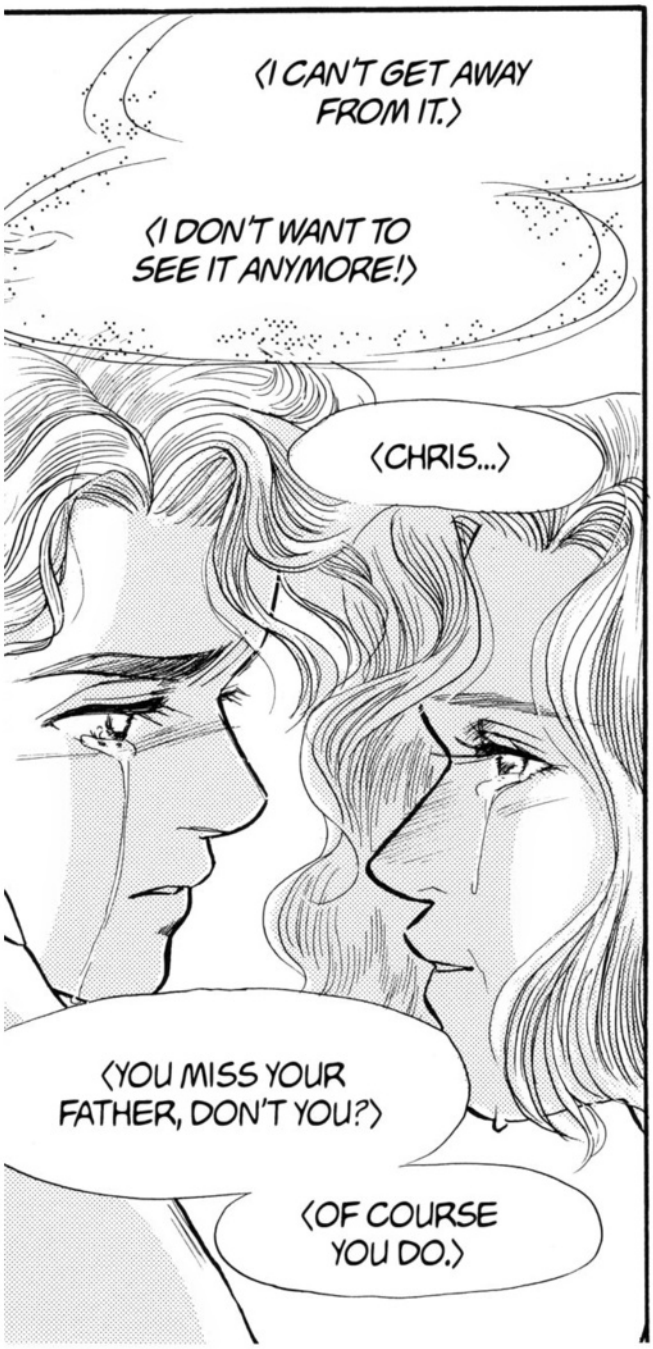
〈DAD'S COVERED IN BLOOD!〉

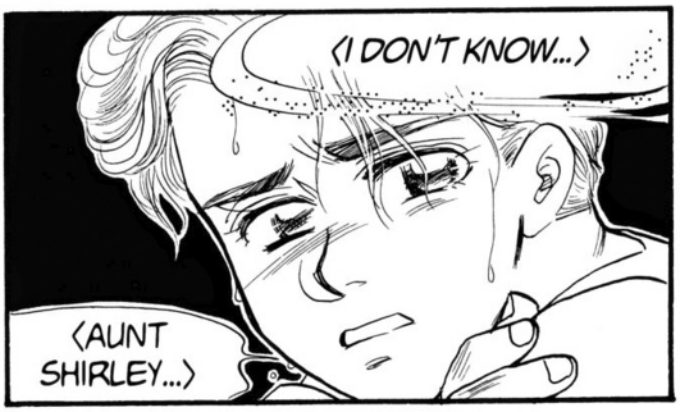

〈HARRY ROBINSON, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR MURDER.〉
BLAM
〈DAD!〉
〈COME ANY CLOSER...〉
〈...AND I'LL CUT THE KID'S THROAT!〉
〈NO!!〉
〈CHRI...〉
〈CHRIS...〉
〈JENNY...〉

〈WHAT'S WRONG?〉
〈CHRIS?〉
SKREEK...
〈I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.〉

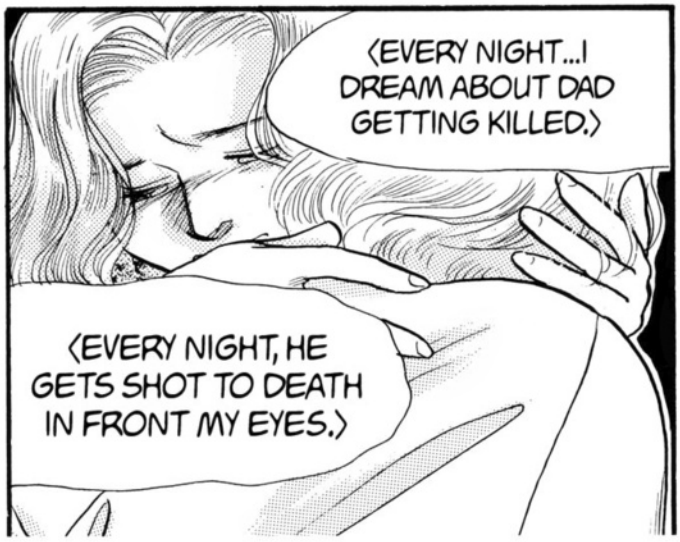
〈OH, GOD.〉
SIGH...
HFF...
KLAK

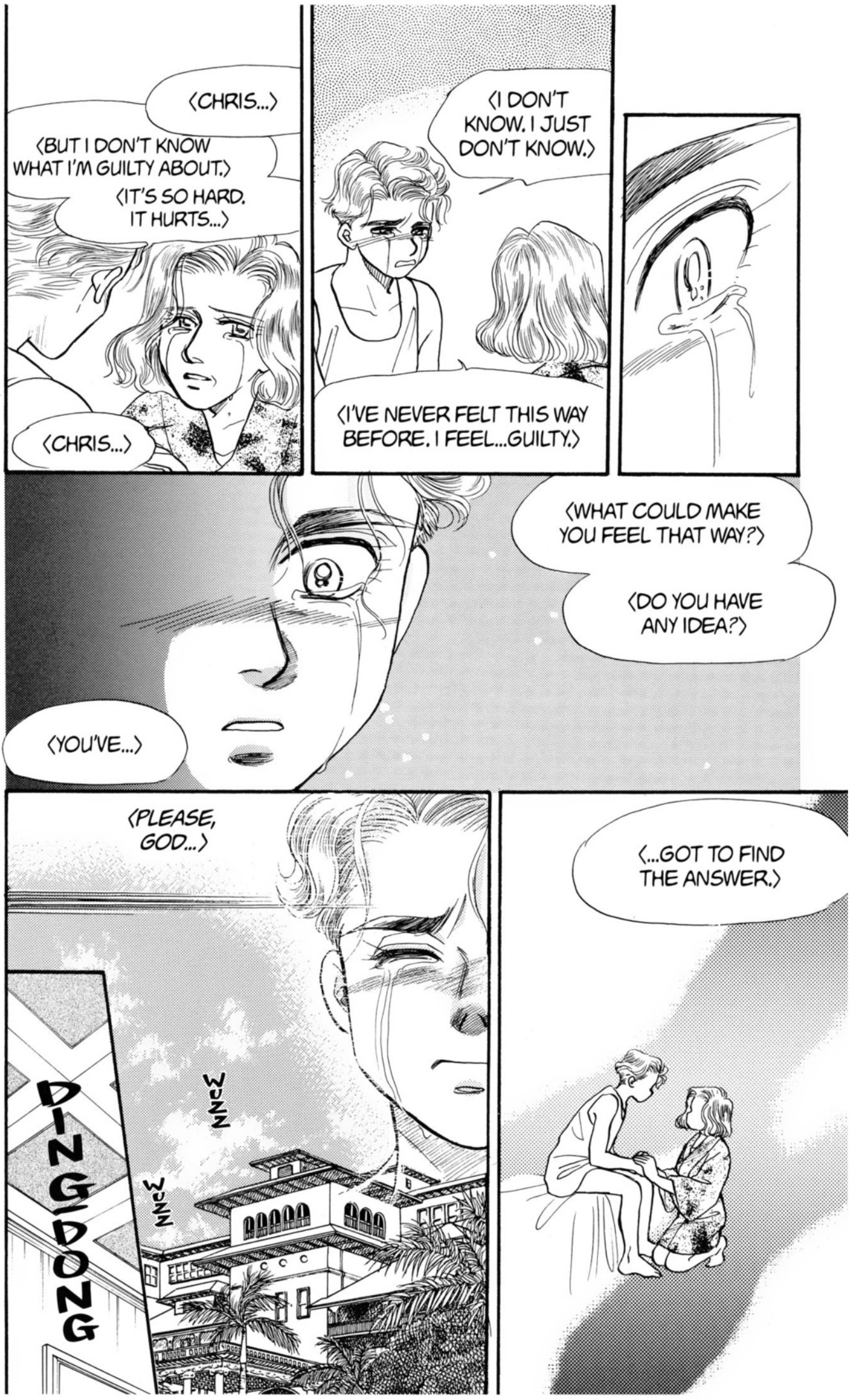
HFF
HFF


〈I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM IT.〉
〈I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT ANYMORE!〉
〈CHRIS...〉
〈YOU MISS YOUR FATHER, DON'T YOU?〉
〈OF COURSE YOU DO.〉


〈I DON'T KNOW...〉
〈AUNT SHIRLEY...〉

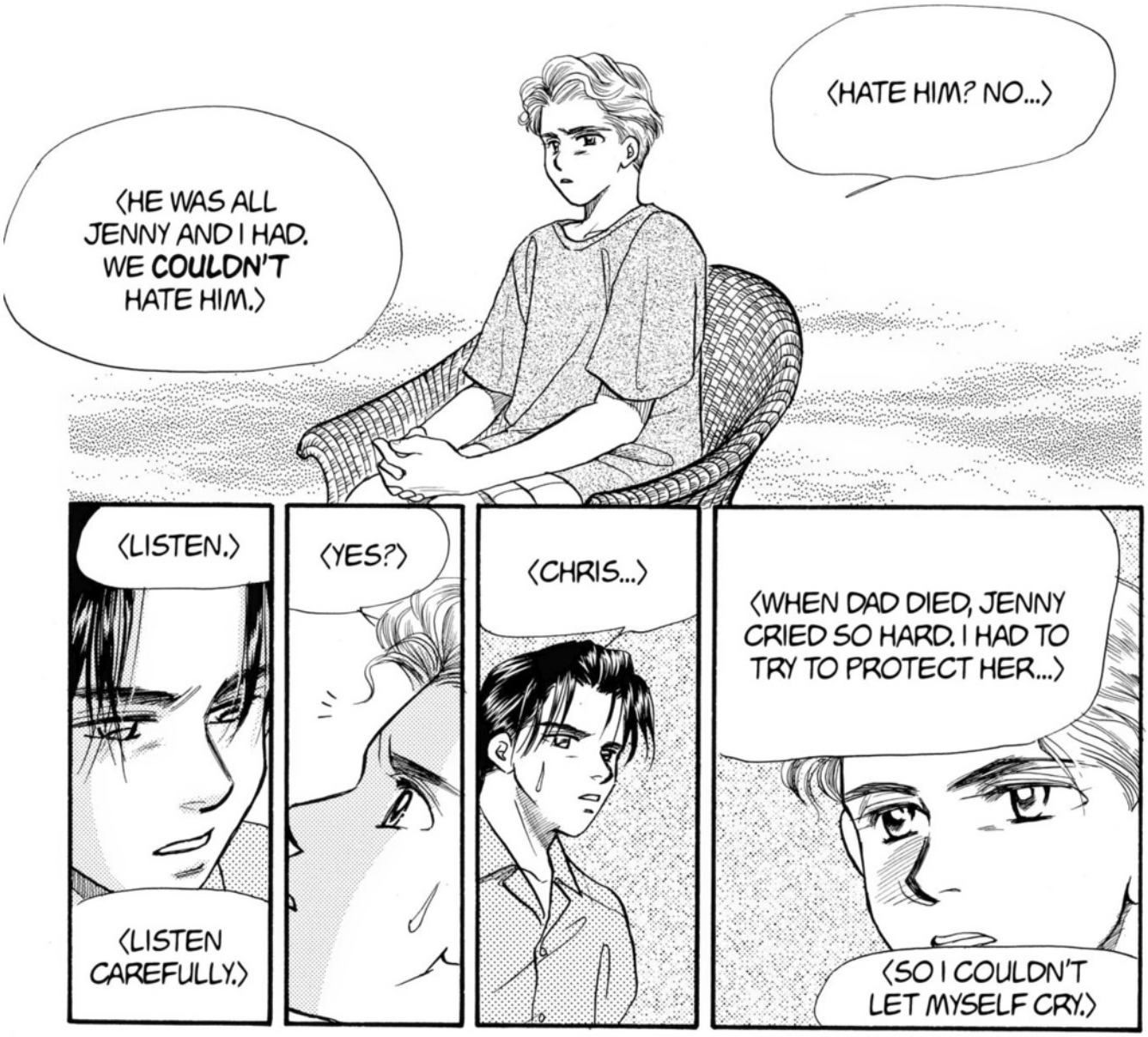
〈...WHAT TO DO...〉
〈HELP ME...〉
〈YES, CHRIS.〉
〈IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT'S ALL RIGHT...〉

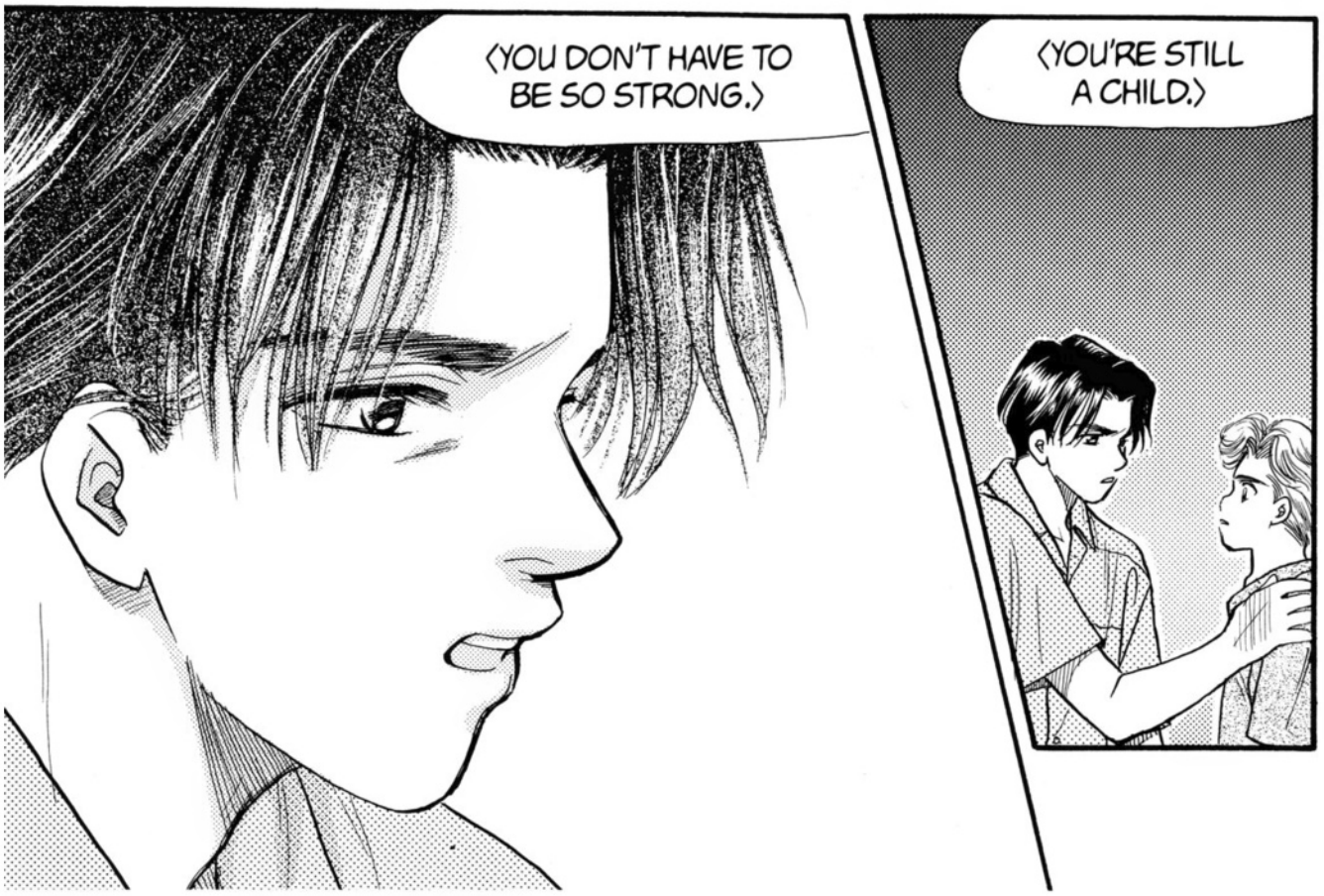

〈EVERY NIGHT...I DREAM ABOUT DAD GETTING KILLED.〉
〈EVERY NIGHT, HE GETS SHOT TO DEATH IN FRONT MY EYES.〉

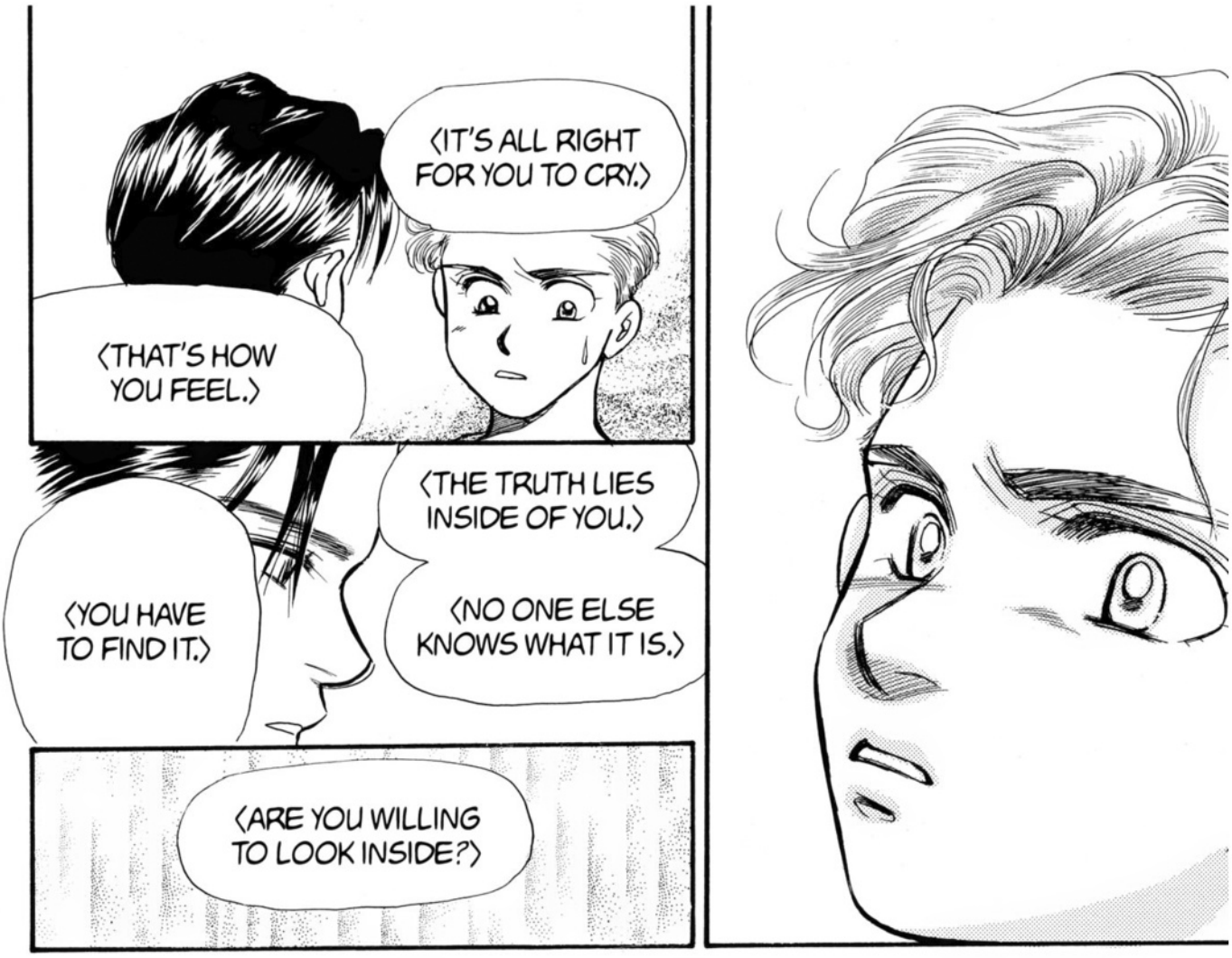

〈CHRIS...〉
〈BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M GUILTY ABOUT.〉
〈IT'S SO HARD. IT HURTS...〉
〈CHRIS...〉
〈I DON'T KNOW. I JUST DON'T KNOW.〉
〈I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE. I FEEL...GUILTY.〉
〈WHAT COULD MAKE YOU FEEL THAT WAY?〉
〈DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA?〉
〈YOU'VE...〉
〈PLEASE, GOD...〉
WUNN
WUNN
DINGDONG
〈...GOT TO FIND THE ANSWER.〉

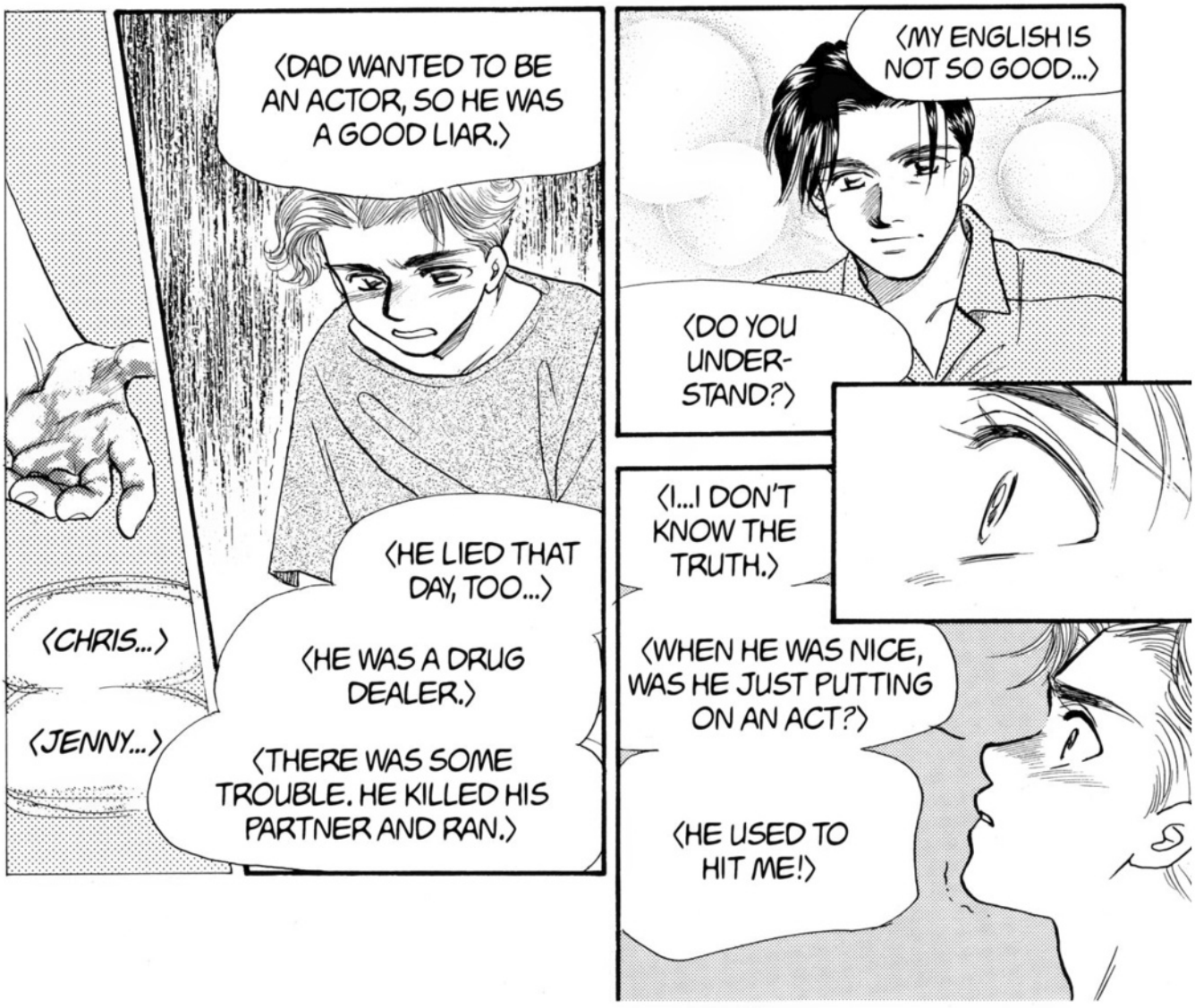
KLAK
<CHRIS?>
BERETTA
<LOOK...>
<ABOUT YESTERDAY...I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU AND TAKUYA.>
<I...>
<I HAD MY AUNT TELL ME YOUR ROOM NUMBER.>
<I'M SORRY.>
<I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I FEEL LIKE YOU CAN MAKE THIS PAIN GO AWAY.>
<WHY?>
<YOUR EYES...>
<SOMETIMES DAD'S LOOKED LIKE THAT...>
<I WANT TO CONFESS SOMETHING...>
<...BUT NOT TO GOD...>
<...AND NOT TO MY DAD.>
TAP
TAP
<WELL...>
<UM...>
<NO.>
<I KNOW THAT...YOU'RE NOT MY DAD...>
<I...>

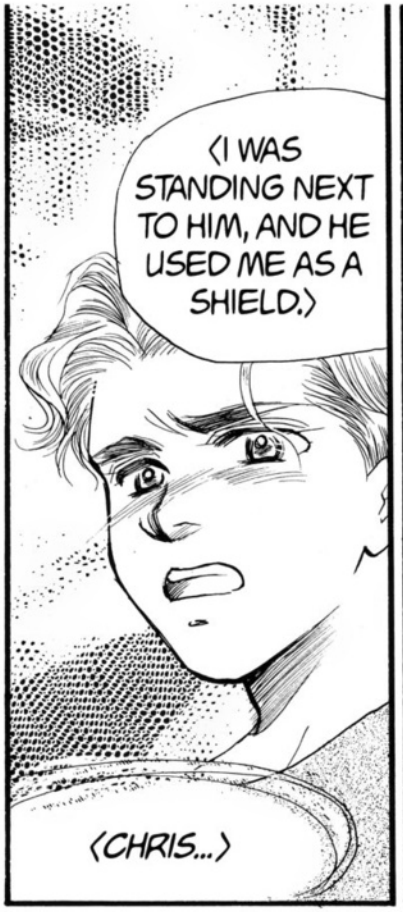
SPLASH
HIM'S NOT HEO ?
WHERE'S DAD?
〈THEY'RE GENTLE.〉
SPLASH
SPLASH
〈OUR DAD USED TO GET DRUNK EVERY DAY.〉
〈HE USED TO HIT US.〉
〈WHAT A SIGHT.〉
〈I'D LIKE YOU KIDS TO SEE THAT SOMEDAY.〉
〈IS THAT...WHAT'S UPSETTING YOU?〉
〈DID YOU HATE YOUR FATHER?〉
〈...SOMETIMES I THOUGHT ABOUT KILLING HIM.〉
〈TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...〉
〈AROUND THE TOWN WHERE I WAS BORN...〉
〈...THERE'S FIELDS OF WHEAT THAT SPREAD OUT FOREVER.〉


〈HATE HIM? NO...〉
〈HE WAS ALL JENNY AND I HAD. WE **COULDN'T** HATE HIM.〉
〈LISTEN.〉
〈LISTEN CAREFULLY.〉
〈YES?〉
〈CHRIS...〉
〈WHEN DAD DIED, JENNY CRIED SO HARD. I HAD TO TRY TO PROTECT HER...〉
〈SO I COULDN'T LET MYSELF CRY.〉


〈YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO STRONG.〉
〈YOU'RE STILL A CHILD.〉


〈IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO CRY.〉
〈THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL.〉
〈THE TRUTH LIES INSIDE OF YOU.〉
〈YOU HAVE TO FIND IT.〉
〈NO ONE ELSE KNOWS WHAT IT IS.〉
〈ARE YOU WILLING TO LOOK INSIDE?〉

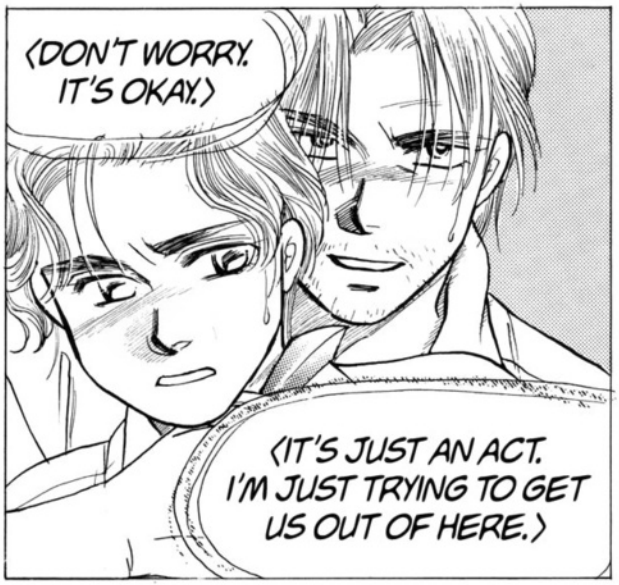

〈DAD WANTED TO BE AN ACTOR, SO HE WAS A GOOD LIAR.〉
〈HE LIED THAT DAY, TOO...〉
〈CHRIS...〉
〈HE WAS A DRUG DEALER.〉
〈JENNY...〉
〈THERE WAS SOME TROUBLE. HE KILLED HIS PARTNER AND RAN.〉
〈MY ENGLISH IS NOT SO GOOD...〉
〈DO YOU UNDER-STAND?〉
〈I...I DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH.〉
〈WHEN HE WAS NICE, WAS HE JUST PUTTING ON AN ACT?〉
〈HE USED TO HIT ME!〉


〈I WAS STANDING NEXT TO HIM, AND HE USED ME AS A SHIELD.〉
〈CHRIS...〉

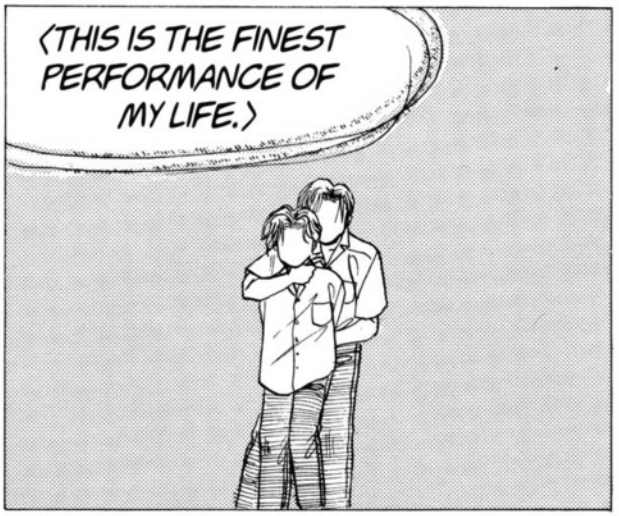
〈THEN THE POLICE CAME...〉
〈...AND POINTED THEIR GUNS AT HIM.〉

〈WE CAN'T STAY HERE.〉
〈WE'VE GOTTA GET AWAY!〉

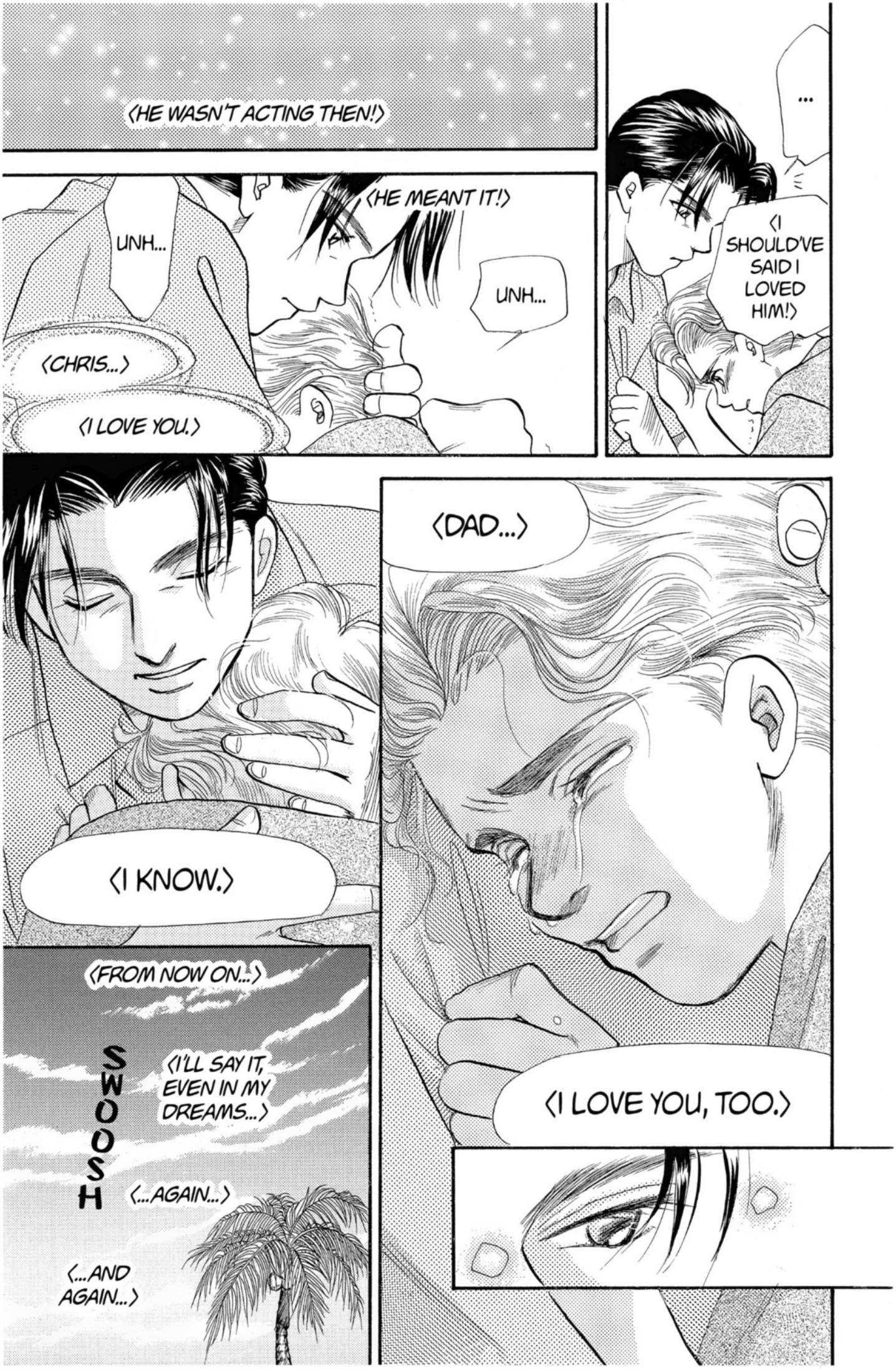
〈HE WAS JUST ACTING!〉

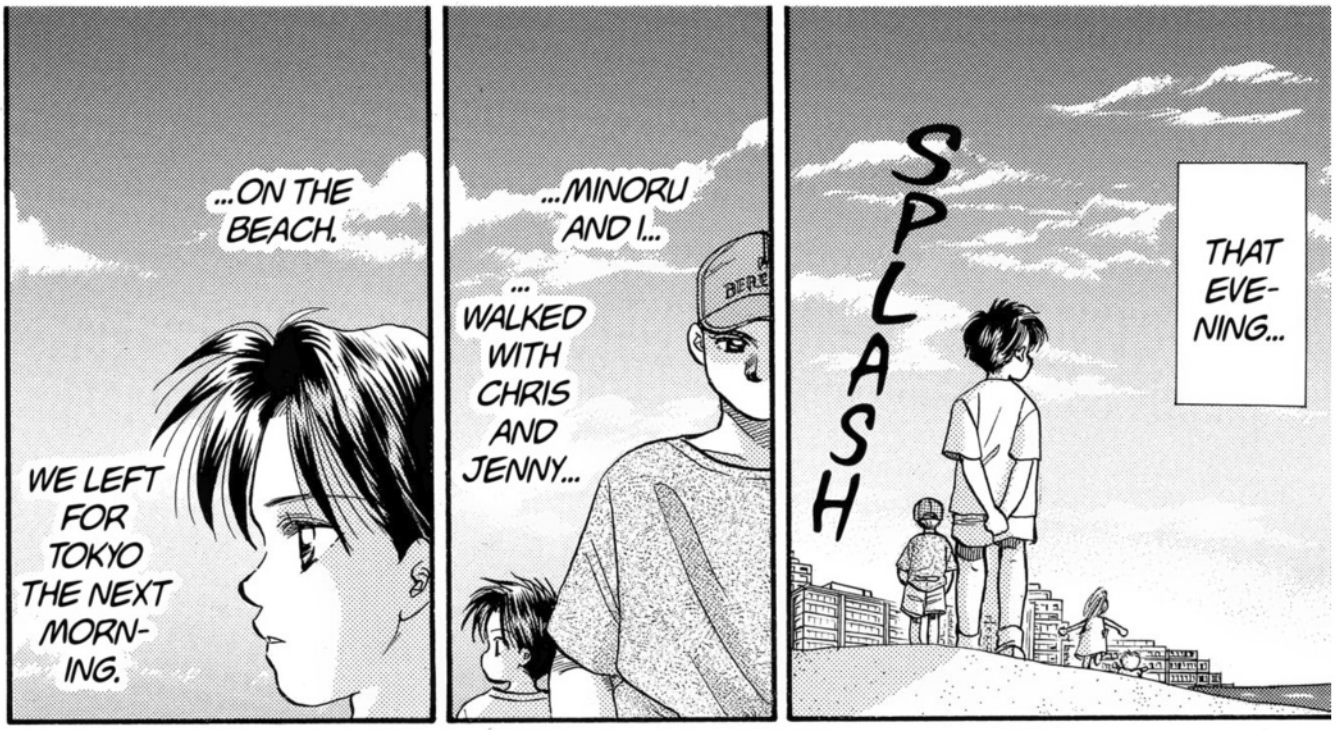

〈DON'T WORRY. IT'S OKAY.〉
〈IT'S JUST AN ACT. I'M JUST TRYING TO GET US OUT OF HERE.〉

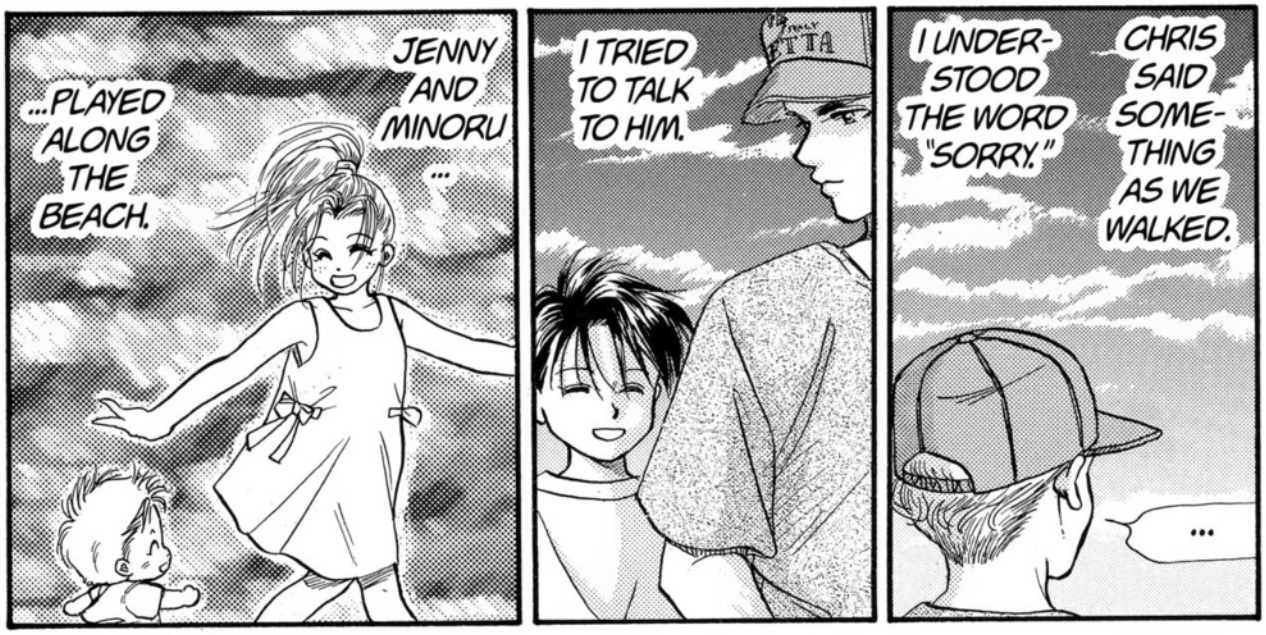
〈BUT HE LET DOWN HIS GUARD AND A COP SHOT HIM DEAD.〉

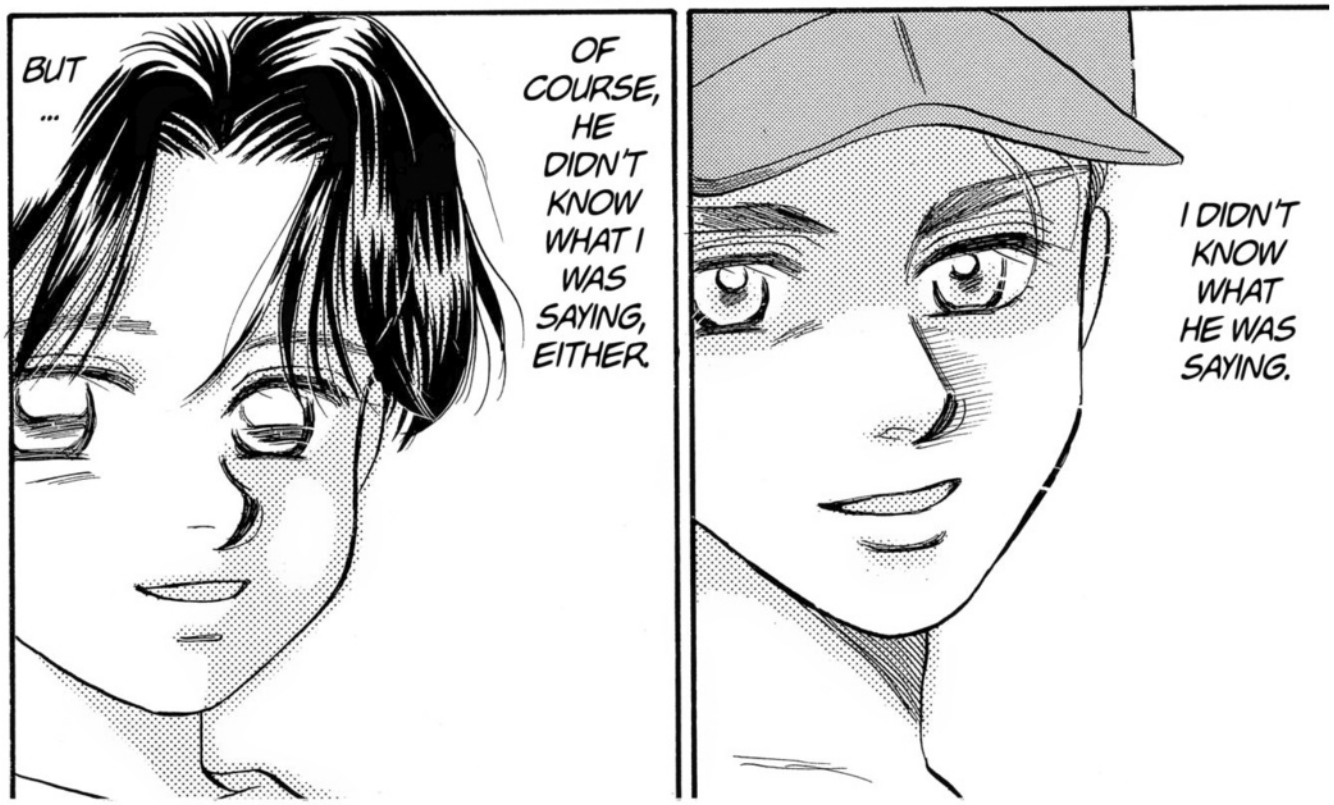

〈THIS IS THE FINEST PERFORMANCE OF MY LIFE.〉

<IT WAS LIKE A BAD DREAM.>
<EVEN HIS WORDS SEEMED LIKE A DREAM.>
<JEN...NY...>
<CHRIS...>
<EVEN THEN, IT WAS LIKE HE WAS ACTING.>
<IT DIDN'T SEEM REAL.>
<CHRIS...>
<JENNY...>
<I LOVE YOU.>
<...CHRIS.>
<MY MIND WENT BLANK.>
<I COULDN'T SAY THOSE WORDS BACK TO HIM, EVEN IF I WANTED TO.>
<NOT EVEN IN A DREAM.>
<I LOVE YOU...>
<I LOVE YOU...>


<HE WASN'T ACTING THEN!>
...
<I SHOULD'VE SAID I LOVED HIM!>
<HE MEANT IT!>
UNH...
UNH...
<CHRIS...>
<I LOVE YOU.>
<DAD...>
<I KNOW.>
<I LOVE YOU, TOO.>
<FROM NOW ON...>
SWOOSH
<I'LL SAY IT, EVEN IN MY DREAMS...>
<...AGAIN...>
<...AND AGAIN...>

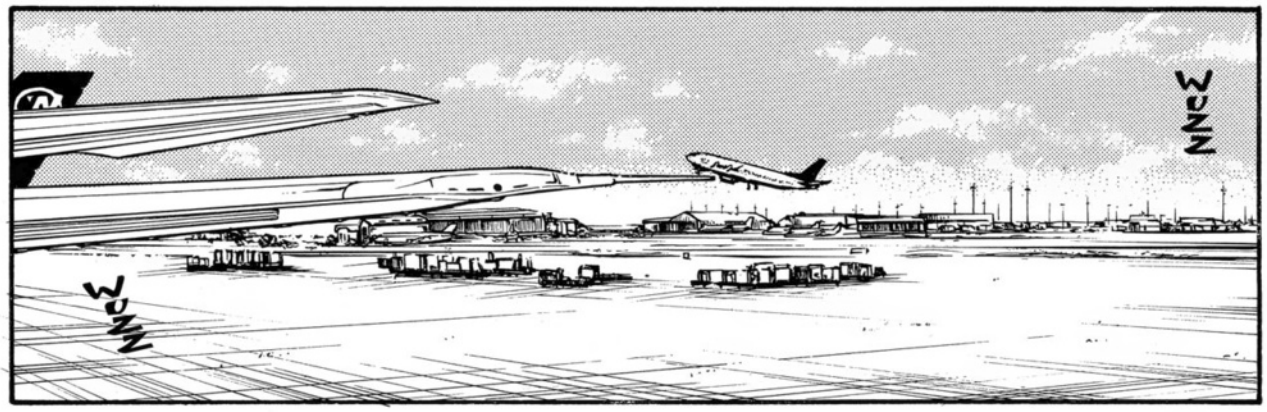

...ON THE BEACH.
WE LEFT FOR TOKYO THE NEXT MORNING.
...MINORU AND I...
... WALKED WITH CHRIS AND JENNY...
SPLASH
THAT EVENING...

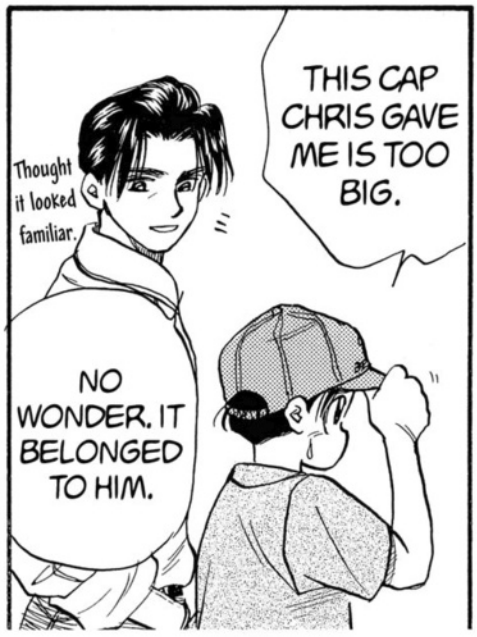

...PLAYED ALONG THE BEACH.
JENNY AND MINORU ...
I TRIED TO TALK TO HIM.
I UNDERSTOOD THE WORD "SORRY."
CHRIS SAID SOMETHING AS WE WALKED.
...

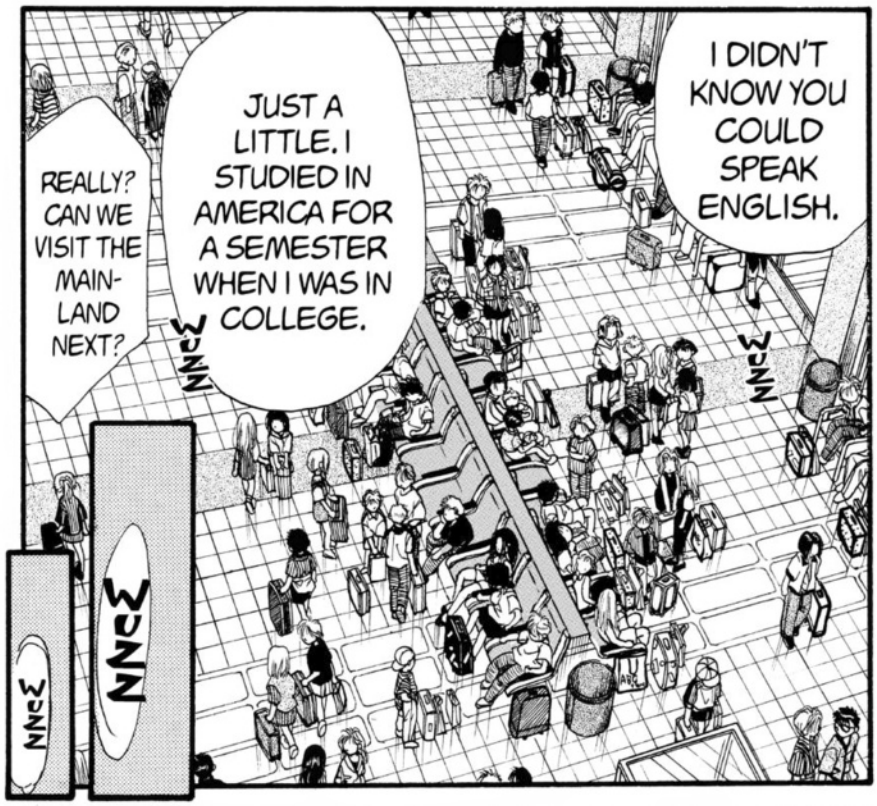

BUT ...
OF COURSE, HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS SAYING, EITHER.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS SAYING.

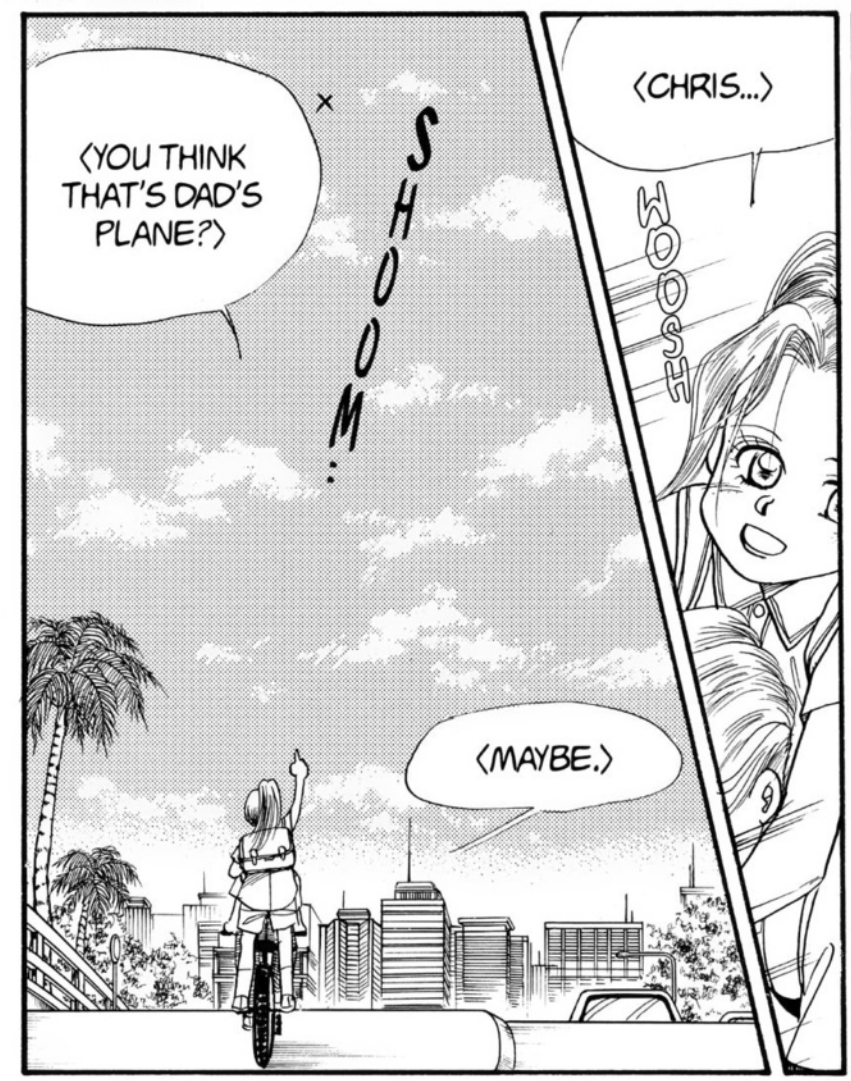
...THE SAME SOOTHING BREEZE OFF THE OCEAN.

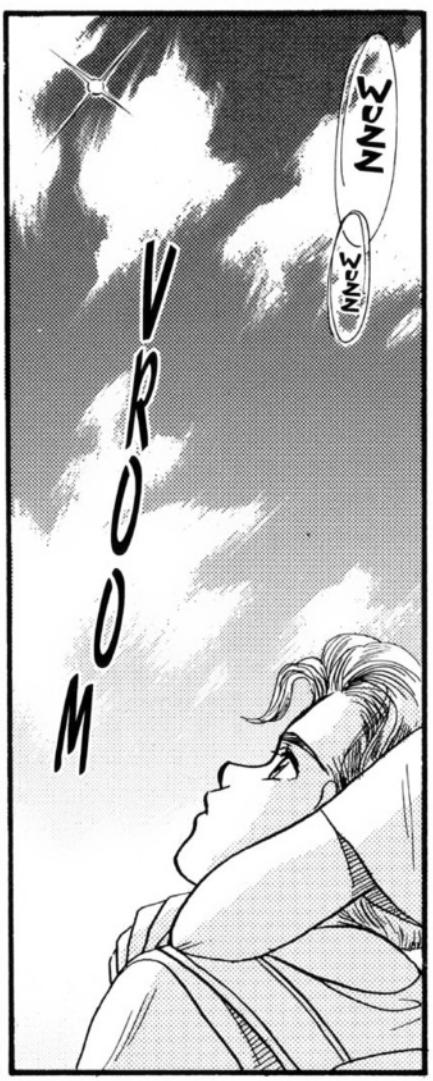
...WE BOTH FELT...









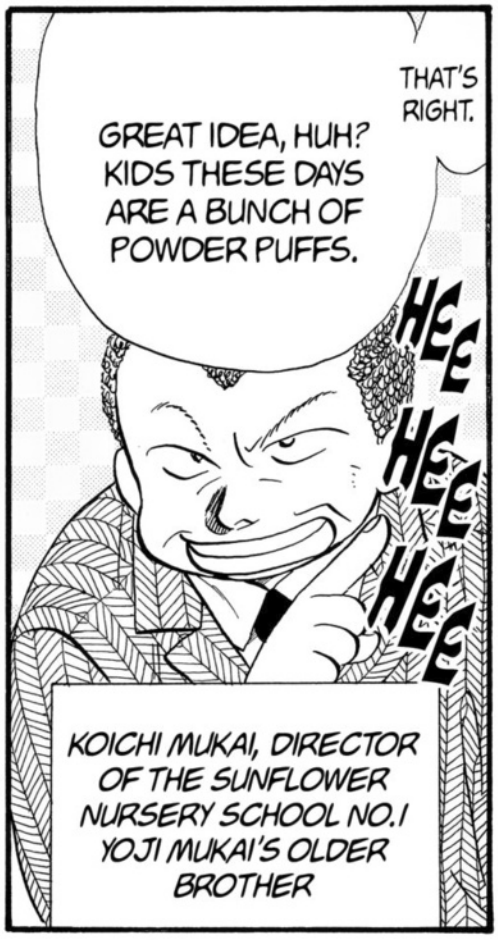


Chapter 60 / The End

TWEE
Hello.
BABY & Me
Chapter 61
Huh?
PROGRAMS

KUMANOI CITY
SUNFLOWER NURSERY SCHOOL NO.2
THIS IS HOW IT ALL BEGAN...
AN INTER-NURS-ERY...
... SUMO COM-PETI-TION?
YOJI MUKAI, DIRECTOR OF THE SUNFLOWER NURSERY SCHOOL NO.2

WE'LL EACH CHOOSE A TEAM TO REPRESENT OUR SCHOOLS.
... WHAT WILL THE WINNERS GET?

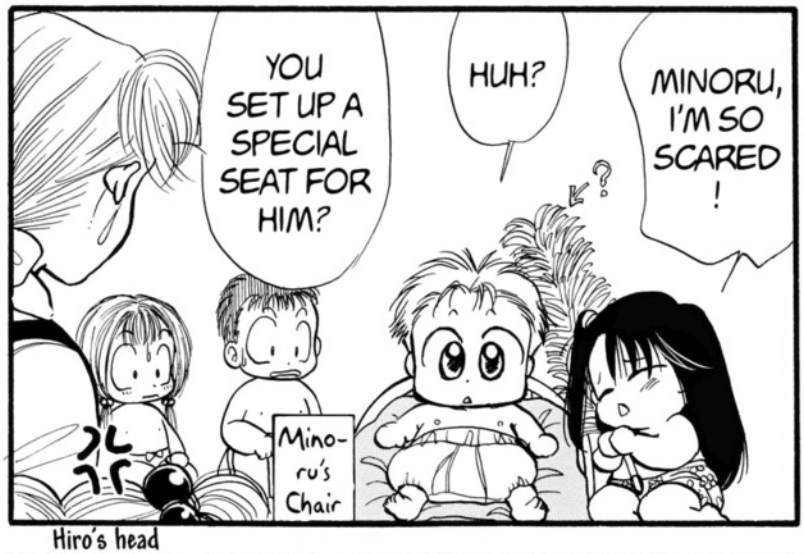

THAT'S RIGHT.
GREAT IDEA, HUH? KIDS THESE DAYS ARE A BUNCH OF POWDER PUFFS.
HEE HEE HEE
KOICHI MUKAI, DIRECTOR OF THE SUNFLOWER NURSERY SCHOOL NO.1 YOJI MUKAI'S OLDER BROTHER

HE'S LYING.
I'M LYING!
...
EXCUSE ME? EDUCATORS SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT WINNING AND LOSING!
Geez... shame on you.
I'LL SHOW YOU!!
THWAP
I KNEW YOU'D GO FOR IT!!
YOU'RE ON!!
HEH HEH HEH...I CAN'T WAIT TO CRUSH YOU!
WINNING AND LOSING MEAN EVERYTHING TO HIM!

GET READY!
A RIDICU-LOUS MOTIVE...
GO!
Imp
WAK
WAK
WAK

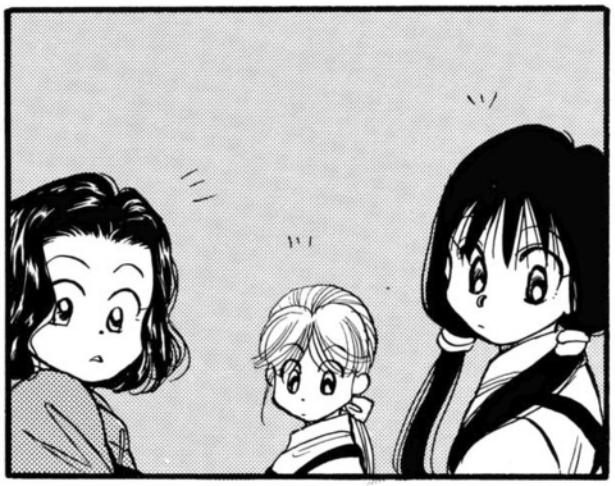
...AN ANIMAL !!
H... HIRO'S ...

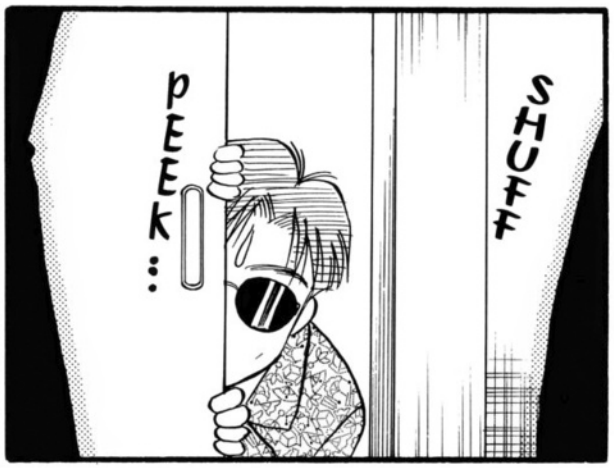
HIRO WINS!
Victory!
squashed

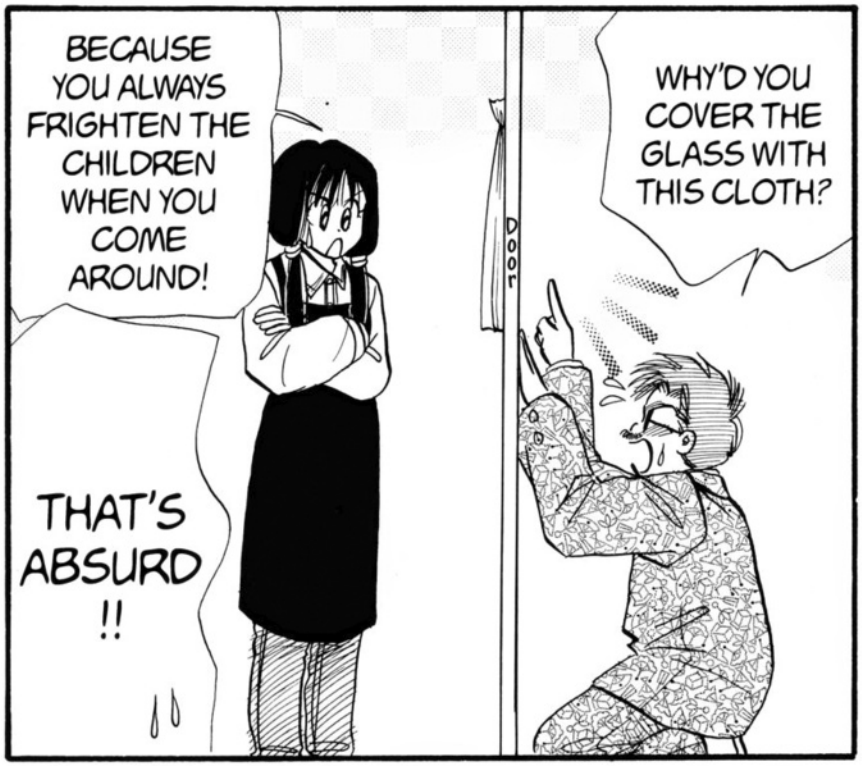

YOU SET UP A SPECIAL SEAT FOR HIM?
HUH?
MINORU, I'M SO SCARED !
Mino-ru's Chair

Hiro's head

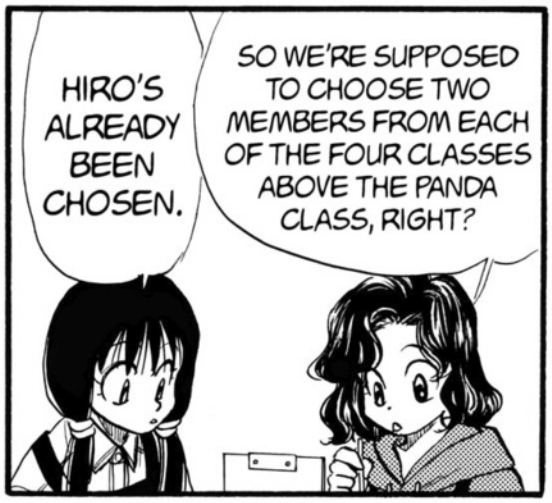
DON'T LET HIM IN!
IT'S MR. MUKAI! MR. MUKAI!
EEEK! OH, NO!
OH!
WHAM
WHAM
OH!
KICK HIM!




SHUFF
PEEK...


BECAUSE YOU ALWAYS FRIGHTEN THE CHILDREN WHEN YOU COME AROUND!
THAT'S ABSURD !!
DOOL
WHY'D YOU COVER THE GLASS WITH THIS CLOTH?

HEY! WHY CAN'T I SEE?
WHAT ?
WAM
WAM


HIRO'S ALREADY BEEN CHOSEN.
SO WE'RE SUPPOSED TO CHOOSE TWO MEMBERS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR CLASSES ABOVE THE PANDA CLASS, RIGHT?

ICHIKA, TOO.
WHAK
WHAK
WHAK

MAYBE WE WENT TOO FAR.
WUNN
WUNN
NO WAY! HE'S SUCH A NUISANCE!
EEEK
WUNN

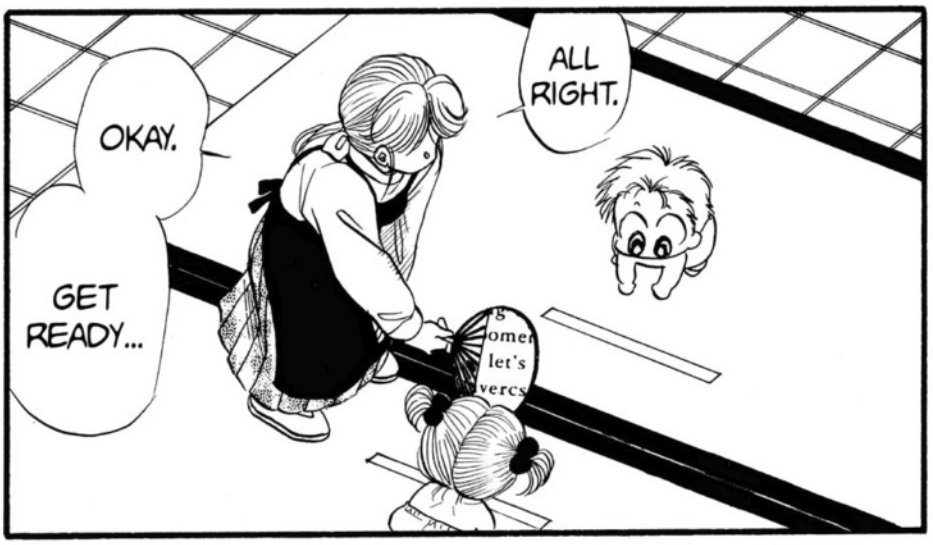
Author's Note: Part 6

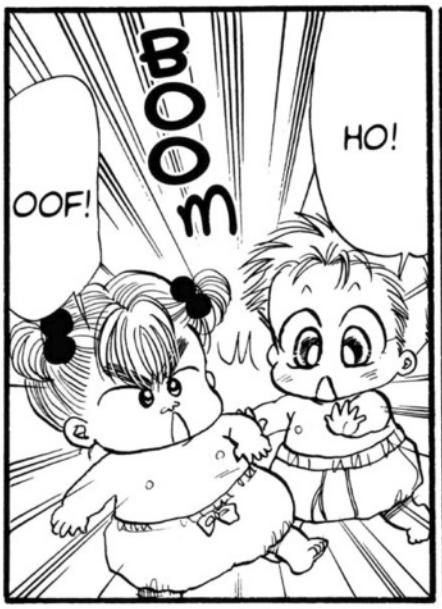
A Small Advertisement

Marimo Ragawa's Book of Illustrations: Baby and Me Upside Down Toy Box, published by Hakusensha...Only 1,600 yen! Please buy one! ♡

The book may be hard to find in rural areas. A lot of people wrote to say they couldn't find one anywhere. But you can order it through your local bookstore! It's simple and easy to do!

There's a Baby and Me Card Gallery on sale, too. Ragawa is very happy because both are selling better than expected.



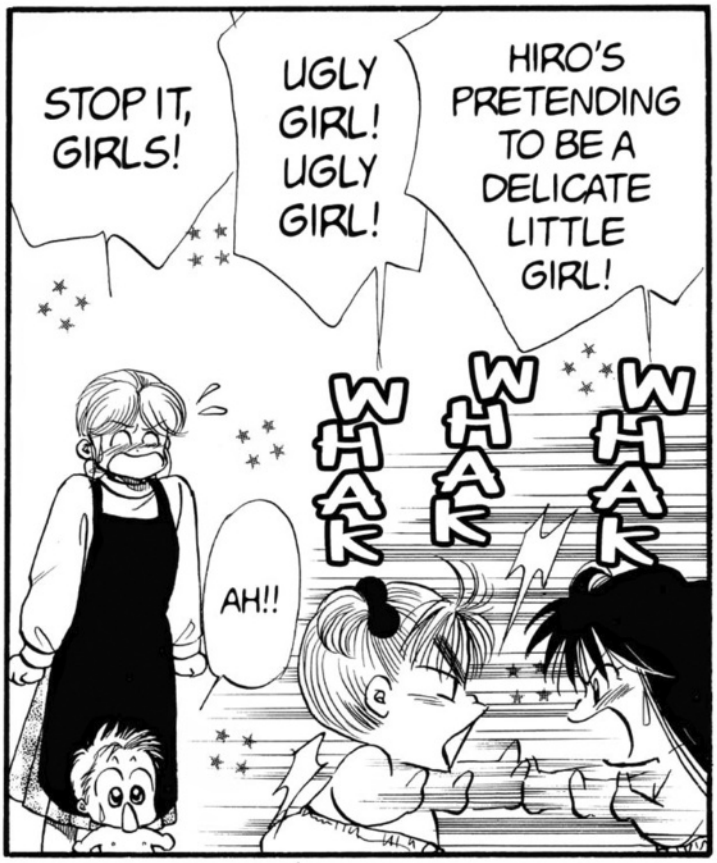


FAKE! SHE'S FAKING IT!
HER EYES SAY, "YOU'RE STRONG, AREN'T YOU?"
...
BLUSH

FWUMP...

SWAY

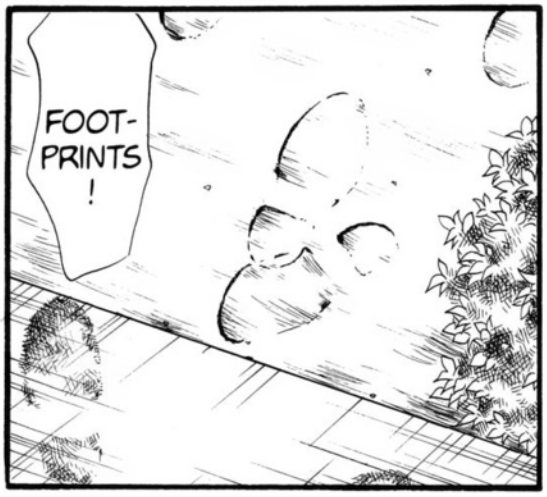
SHHK
WHO'S THERE ?


STOP IT, GIRLS!
UGLY GIRL! UGLY GIRL!
HIRO'S PRETENDING TO BE A DELICATE LITTLE GIRL!
WHAK
WHAK
WHAK
AH!!

WHAT? I SAW A FLASH.
MAYBE YOU IMA-GINED IT.

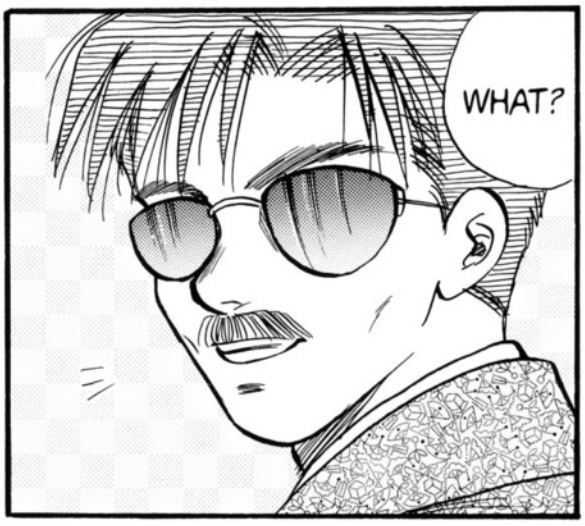
HUH?
SHEEN

WE KNOW WHO THE CULPRIT IS! AND WE'LL MAKE HIM PAY!
IT WAS THAT ENEMY OF THE CHIL-DREN!
IT MUST'VE BEEN A CAMERA FLASH!
FWOOM


FOOT-PRINTS!

MR. MUKAI!!

RRMMMBB
HOW'S EVERY-THING GOING?


WHAT?

MR. MUKAI!!

YOU'RE THE WORST!

YOU SNUCK OUT AND TOOK A PICTURE, DIDN'T YOU?

WHAT?

GASP

ARE YOU NUTS?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!

GRR

GRR

GRR

DON'T PLAY INNO-CENT!

EX-CUSE ME...

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

OH, MS. KOBA-YASHI.

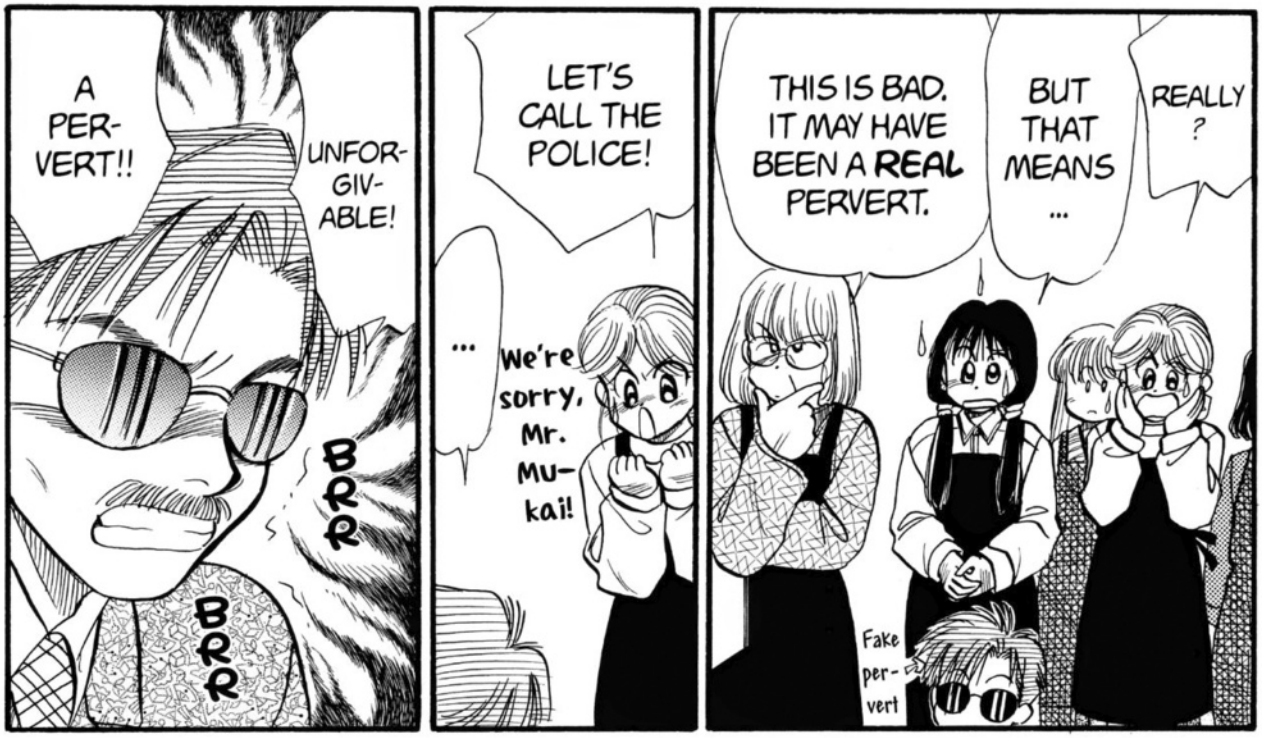
LISTEN TO THIS!

TUP TUP TUP

I SEE.

SO THAT'S WHAT YOU THOUGHT.

BUT IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MR. MUKAI. HE WAS WITH ME.

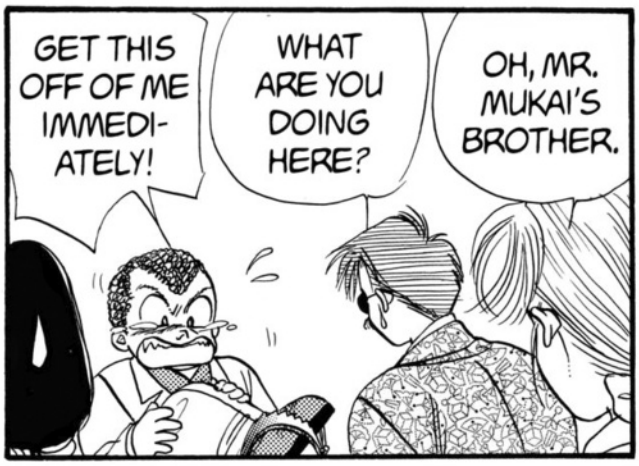

A PER-VERT!!
UNFOR-GIV-ABLE!
BRRR
BRRR
LET'S CALL THE POLICE!
...
We're sorry, Mr. Mu-kai!
THIS IS BAD. IT MAY HAVE BEEN A REAL PERVERT.
BUT THAT MEANS ...
REALLY ?
Fake per-vert

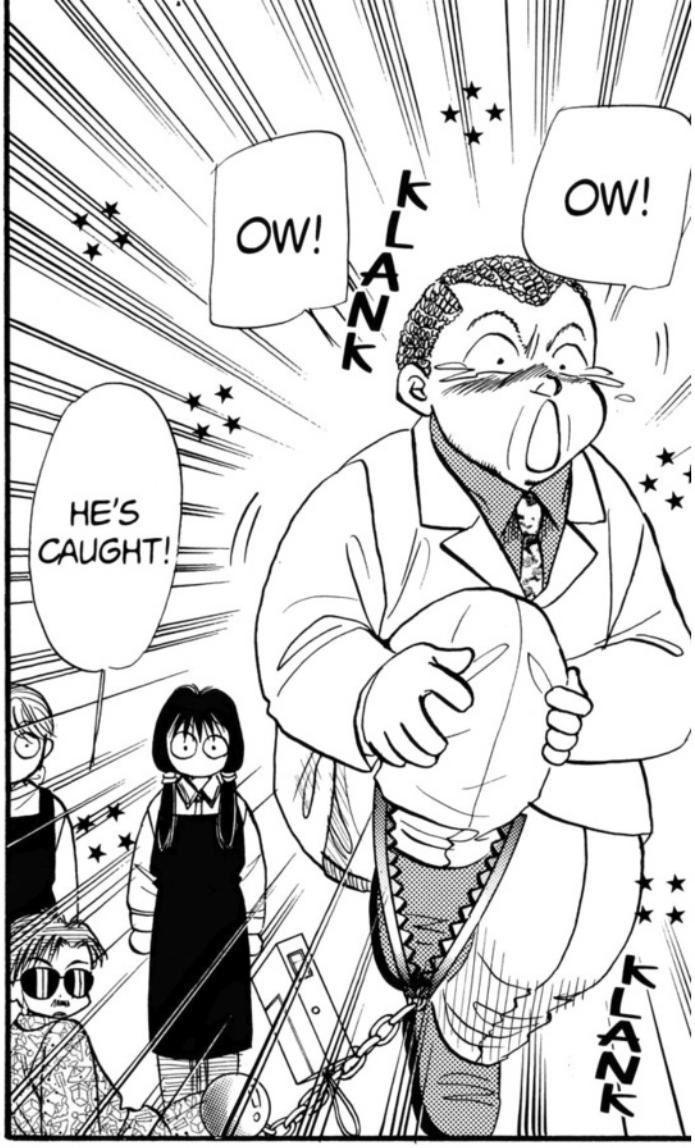
SET A TRAP.

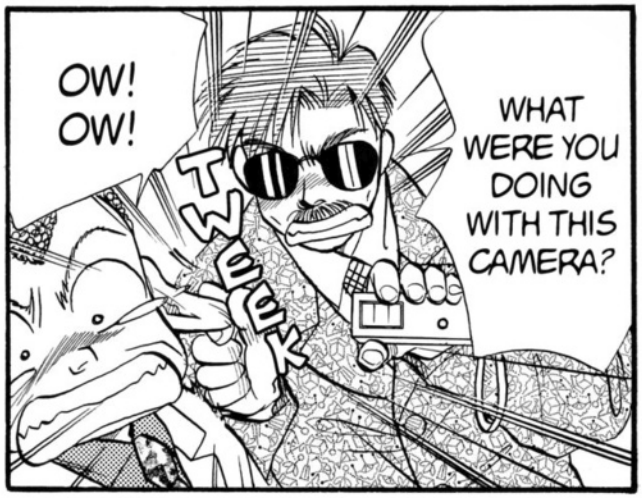
M-MR. MUKAI! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
DASH
I'LL CATCH YOU AND MAKE YOU REGRET YOU WERE BORN!

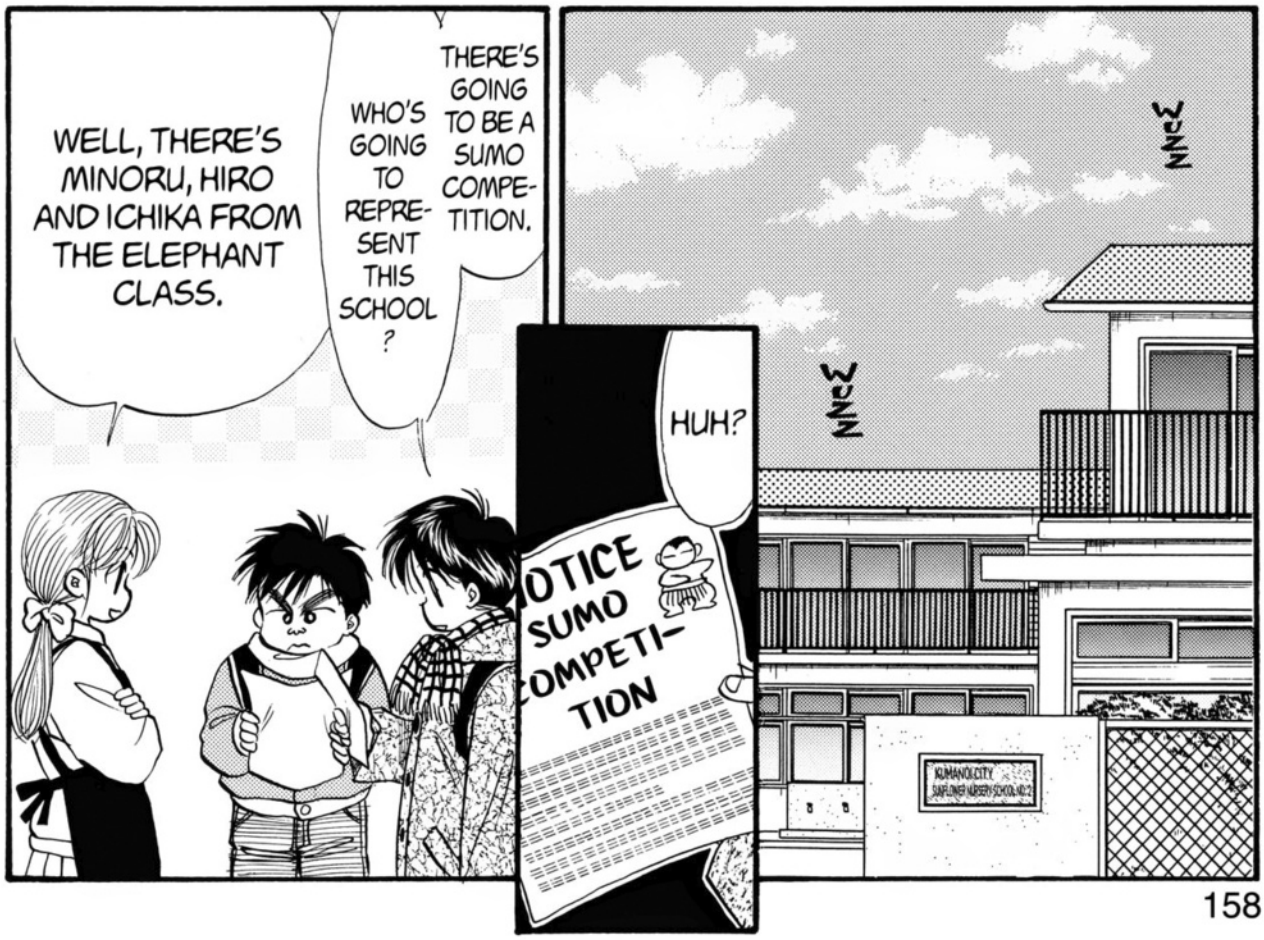
Cheese

DON'T YOU THINK IT'LL WORK?
KLANK
WHO'D FALL FOR THAT? IT'S RIGHT OUT OF "TOM AND JERRY"!


GET THIS OFF OF ME IMMEDIATELY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
OH, MR. MUKAI'S BROTHER.

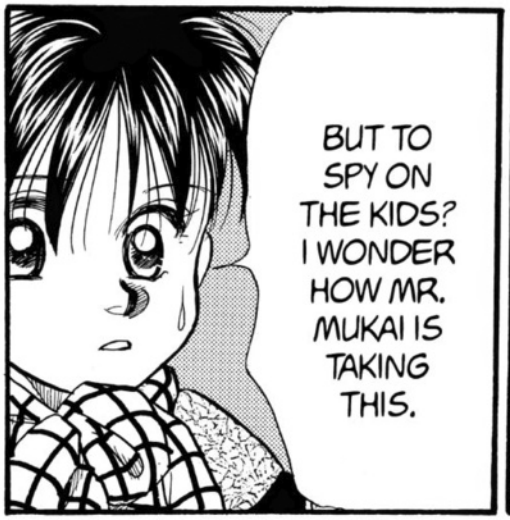

OW!
OW!
KLANK
HE'S CAUGHT!
KLANK

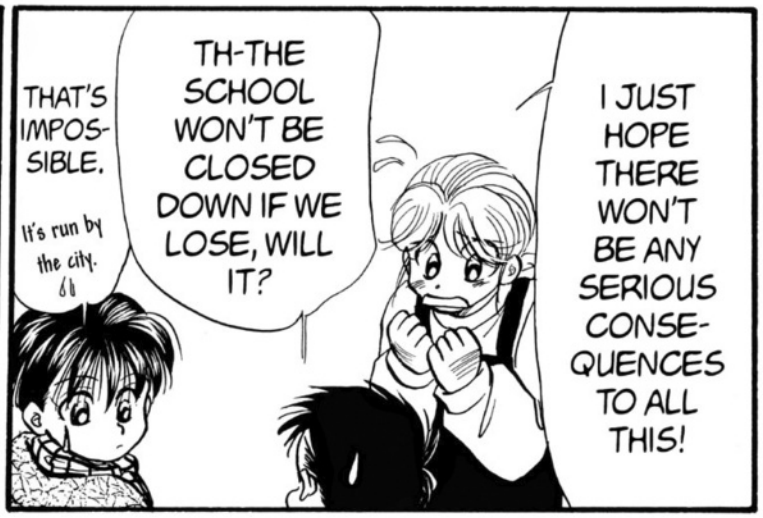

OW! OW!
TWEEK
WHAT WERE YOU DOING WITH THIS CAMERA?


WELL, THERE'S MINORU, HIRO AND ICHIKA FROM THE ELEPHANT CLASS.
WHO'S GOING TO REPRESENT THIS SCHOOL?
THERE'S GOING TO BE A SUMO COMPETITION.
HUH?
NOTICE SUMO COMPETITION
WUZZ
WUZZ
KUMANOI CITY DAIFUKUJI NURSERY SCHOOL NO.2

THAT'S RIGHT. AND KOICHI MUKAI, THE DIRECTOR OF SUNFLOWER NO. 1, EVEN TRIED TO SPY ON US!
THIS COMPETITION IS BETWEEN SUNFLOWER NURSERY SCHOOLS NO. 1 AND NO. 2?

WOW.
I'M NOT SURE, BUT HE DID BEAT HIRO.
UBB.
IS MINORU THAT GOOD?

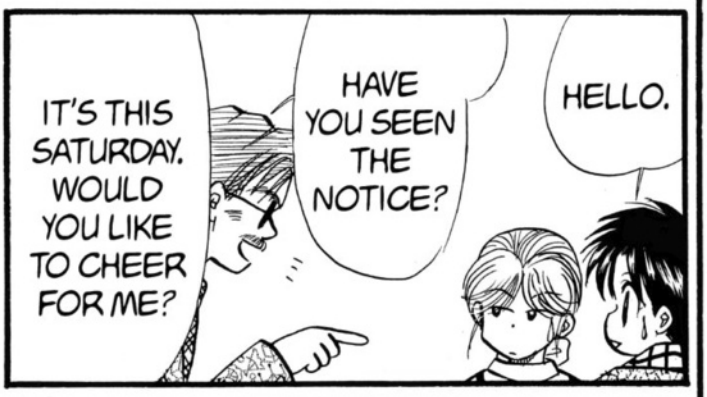

BUT TO SPY ON THE KIDS? I WONDER HOW MR. MUKAI IS TAKING THIS.

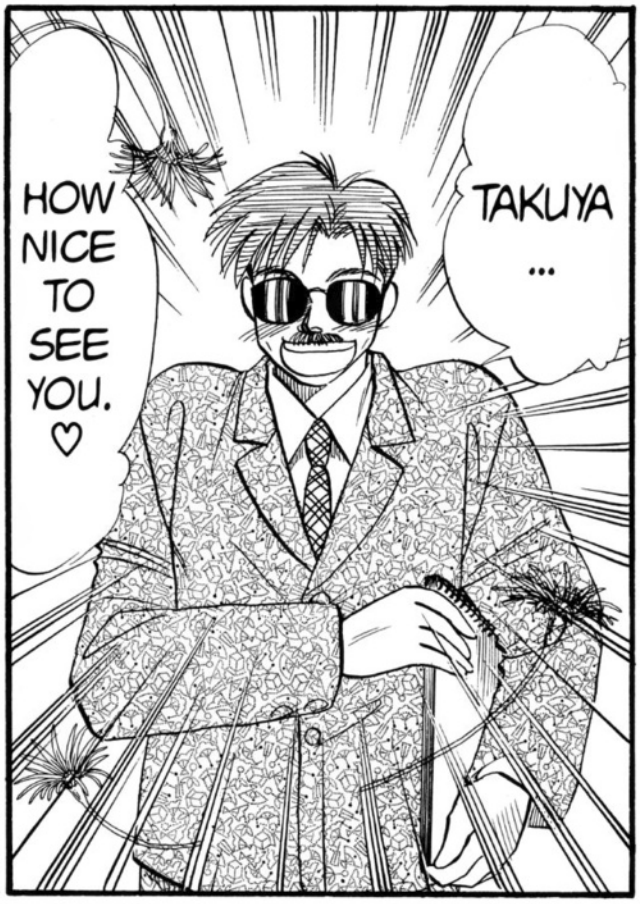

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
It's run by the city.
TH-THE SCHOOL WON'T BE CLOSED DOWN IF WE LOSE, WILL IT?
I JUST HOPE THERE WON'T BE ANY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES TO ALL THIS!

UH-OH!
HE NOTICED US!

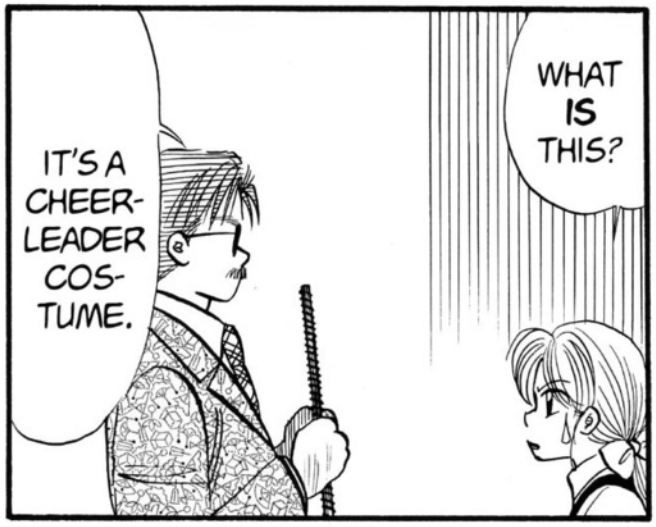
YAK
OH, DEAR. HE LOOKS WORRIED.
YAK

THERE HE GOES NOW.
WHAT?


IT'S THIS SATURDAY. WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHEER FOR ME?
HAVE YOU SEEN THE NOTICE?
HELLO.

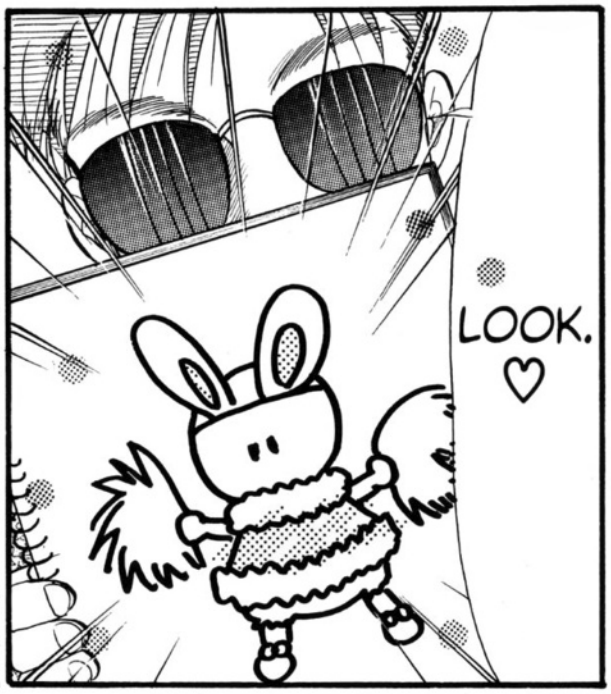

HOW NICE TO SEE YOU. ♡
TAKUYA ...

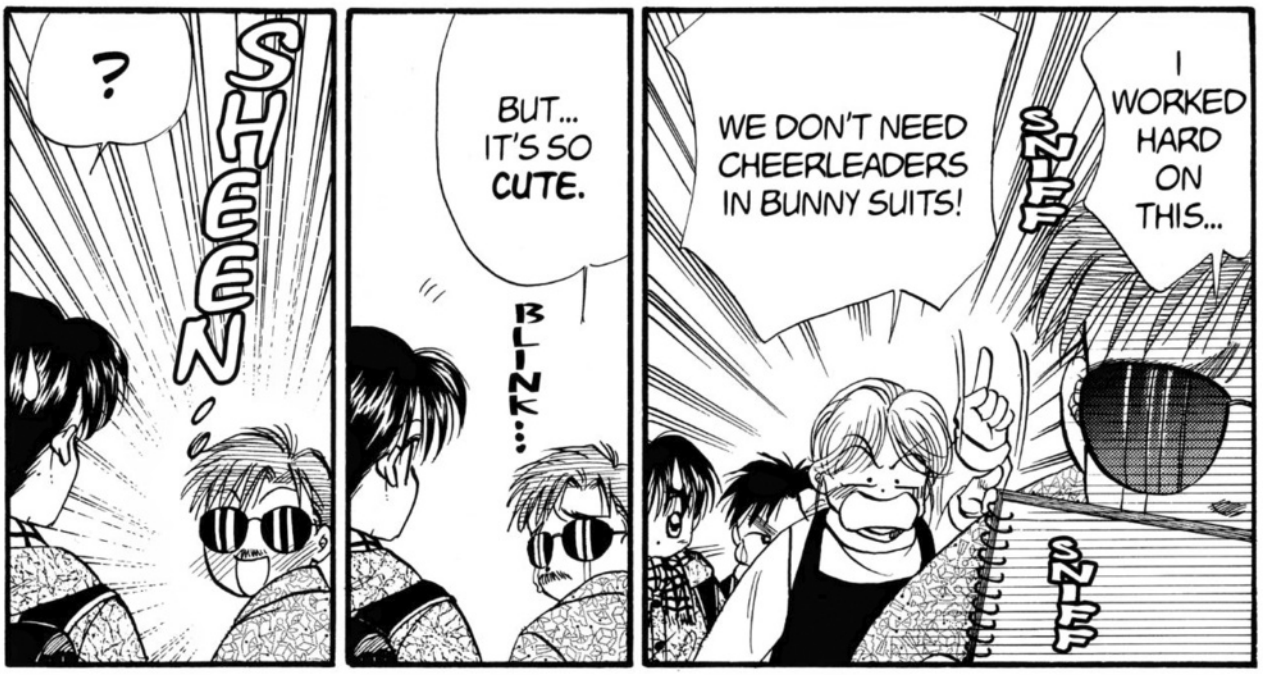
OH, JUST GIVE IT A REST, WILL YOU?
CAN I HELP YOU, MR. MUKAI?
I'M PLANNING TO.
WHUP

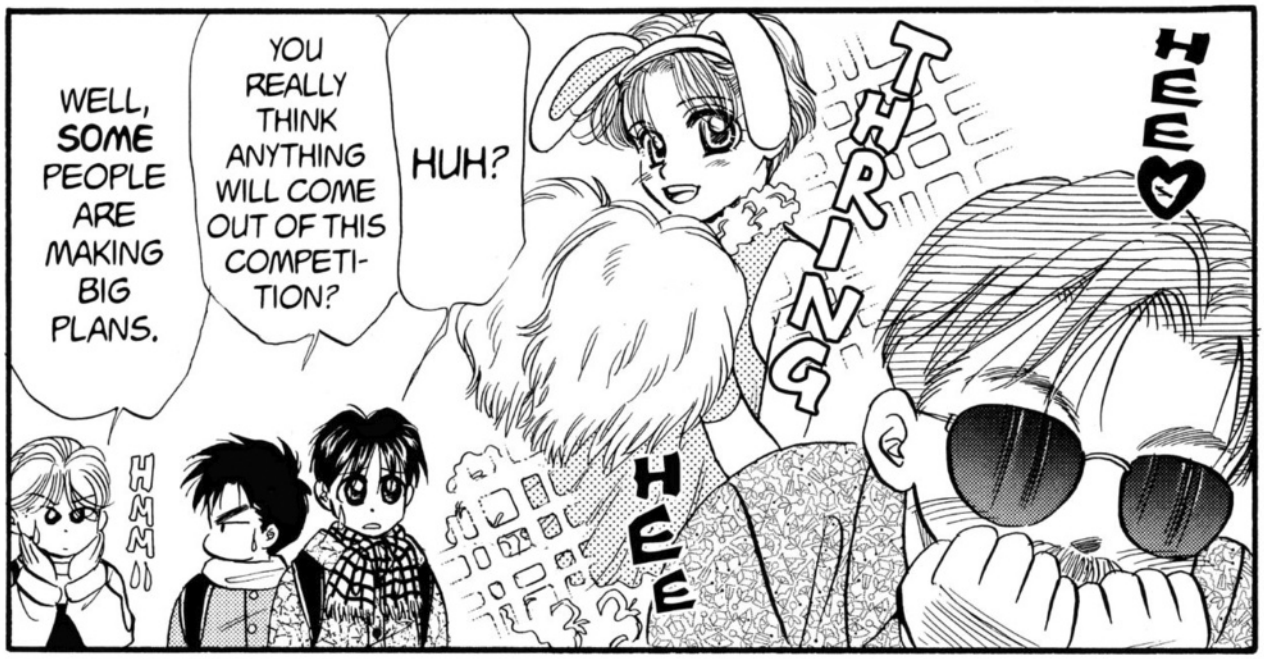

IT'S A CHEERLEADER COSTUME.
WHAT IS THIS?

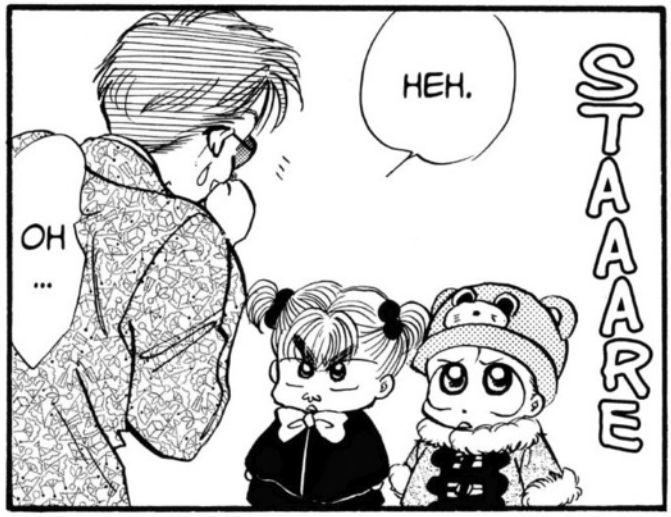
WHAT ?
HERE'S THE COSTUME I DESIGNED.
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
FWIP
FWIP

ACK !!
WHAM


LOOK. ♡

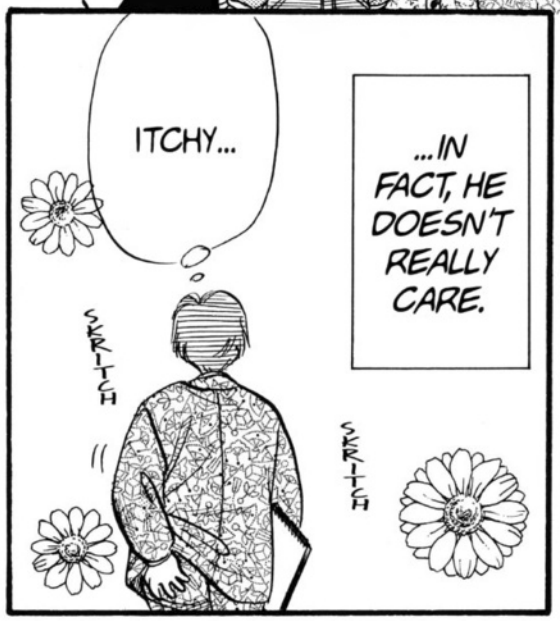

I WORKED HARD ON THIS...
SNIFF
WE DON'T NEED CHEERLEADERS IN BUNNY SUITS!
SNIFF
BUT... IT'S SO CUTE.
BLINK...
SHEEEN
?


HEE♥
THRRING
HEE
HUH?
YOU REALLY THINK ANYTHING WILL COME OUT OF THIS COMPETI-TION?
WELL, SOME PEOPLE ARE MAKING BIG PLANS.
HMM...


STAAARE
HEH.
OH ...

STARE

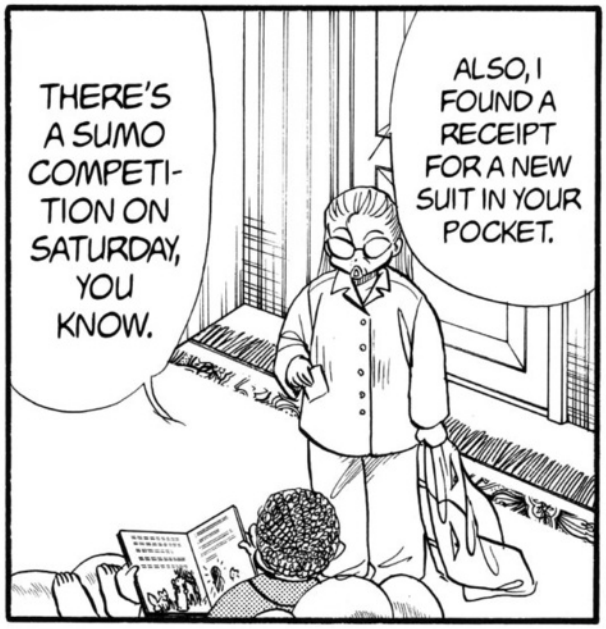
NOW THEN ...
VERY CONVINC-ING.
I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING WEIRD, OKAY?
I...
HUH?
KOFF


ITCHY...
...IN FACT, HE DOESN'T REALLY CARE.
SKRITCH
SKRITCH

EVERYONE ASSUMES THAT MR. MUKAI REALLY WANTS TO WIN THIS SUMO COMPETITION, BUT...
ZOOM

DEAR ...

KOICHI MUKAI'S HOUSE
THAT NIGHT ...


THERE'S A SUMO COMPETITION ON SATURDAY, YOU KNOW.
ALSO, I FOUND A RECEIPT FOR A NEW SUIT IN YOUR POCKET.

THE PANTS YOU WORE TODAY ARE TORN.
MUST'VE BEEN A RAT OR SOMETHING.
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
HUH? WHAT IS IT?
FOLK TALES FOR CHILDREN

A COLLEGE GIRL WHO LIVED NEXT DOOR CAME OVER TO OUR HOUSE WITH SOME OF HER FRIENDS.
AND THEN THERE WAS THE OTHER THING.
YOJI DRESSES SO COOL!
WHERE'D YOU GET THAT OUTFIT?

YOJI DOESN'T CARE HOW YOU DRESS.
OH YEAH?

I HAVE TO BE READY TO COMPETE AGAINST YOJI!
SO? WHY DO YOU NEED A NEW SUIT FOR THAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BACK WHEN WE WERE STUDENTS, EVERYBODY CONSIDERED HIM THE SHARP DRESSER.

You gotta be kidding me!
THAT'S NO REASON TO ORDER A NEW SUIT!
THAT SHOW-OFF! I'M GONNA WEAR SOMETHING THAT'LL MAKE HIM LOOK LIKE A BUM!

AND?
THEN HE ANSWERED THE QUESTION.

THAT'S STILL NO REASON TO ORDER A NEW SUIT!
ANYWAY, I NEVER LIKED HIS SENSE OF STYLE!

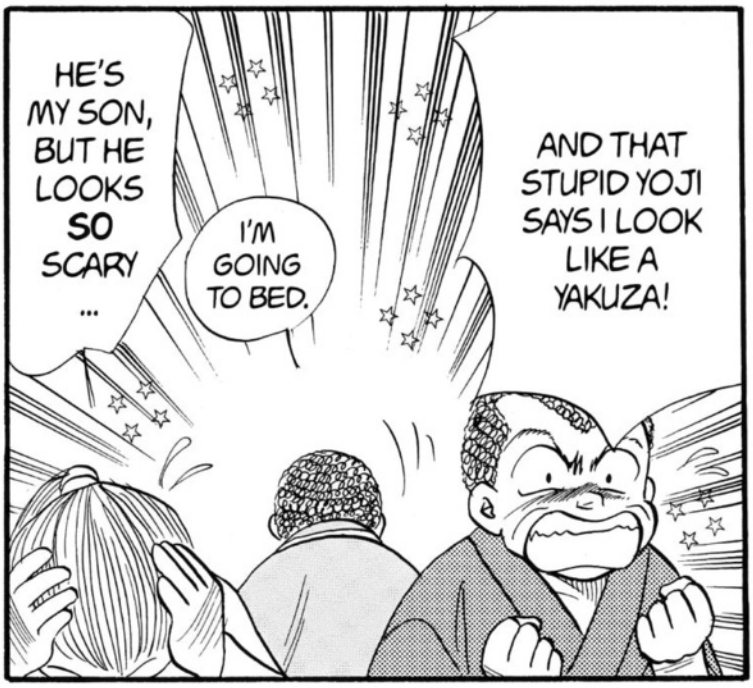
WHERE?
THIS JACKET WAS 1,000 YEN*...
...AND THE SWEATER BELONGED TO MY GRANDPA.

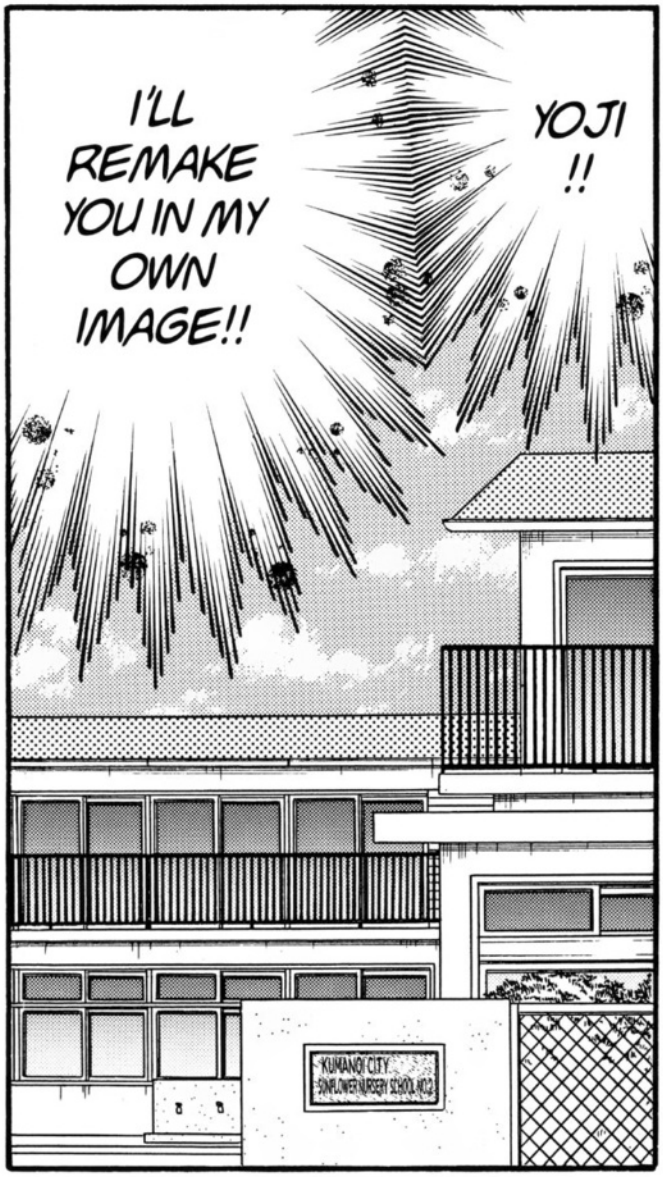
*About $12.

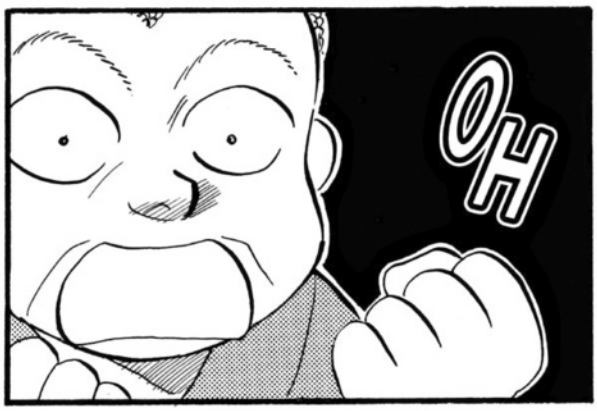
HE'S MY SON, BUT HE LOOKS SCARY.
HA HA HA...LOOK, EVEN MY SON TRIES TO IMITATE THE WAY I DRESS.
?

EEEK!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
STOP SCREAMING, YOU GUYS! IT'S LATE!!
Seventh Grader
KREEK

THAT'S STILL NO REASON TO ORDER A NEW SUIT!
DARN YOU! I'LL BEAT YOU UP AT THE SUMO COMPETITION!


HE'S MY SON, BUT HE LOOKS SO SCARY ...
I'M GOING TO BED.
AND THAT STUPID YOJI SAYS I LOOK LIKE A YAKUZA!


I'LL REMAKE YOU IN MY OWN IMAGE!!
YOJI !!
KUMANOI CITY SUNFLOWER NURSERY SCHOOL NO.2

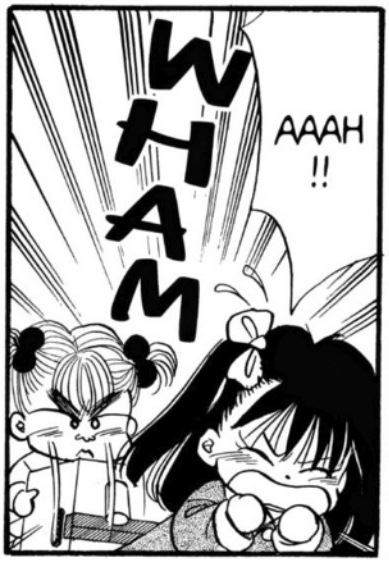

OH

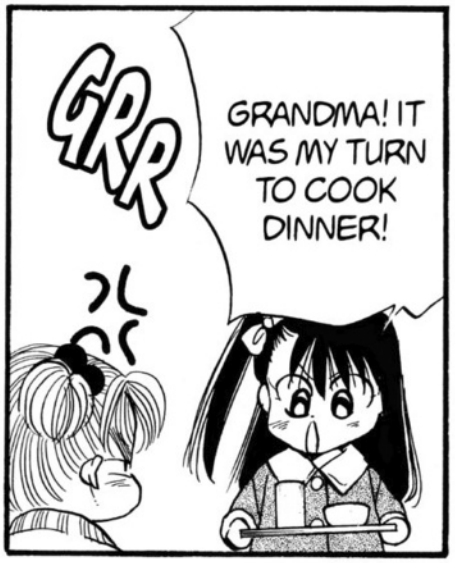
WHAT A GREAT IDEA!!
I GOT IT! I GOT IT!!
Dear !
OH
HEH HEH HEH HEH

DINNO TIME!
Don't forget Ma-bo. He's in the same class as Ichika.
WEL-COME HOME.
TIME TO EAT?
HUH ?

I'M HOME.
GIRAFFE

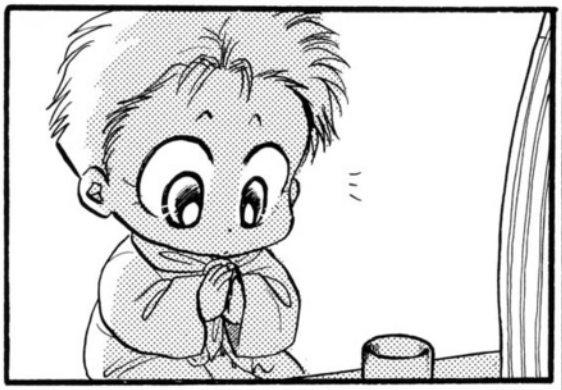
G-GRAND-PA?
It's do-mestic vio-lence!
GRANDPA! MAKE GRANDMA STOP! PLEASE!
BUBBLE FIVE


WHAM
AAAH !!


GRR
GRANDMA! IT WAS MY TURN TO COOK DINNER!

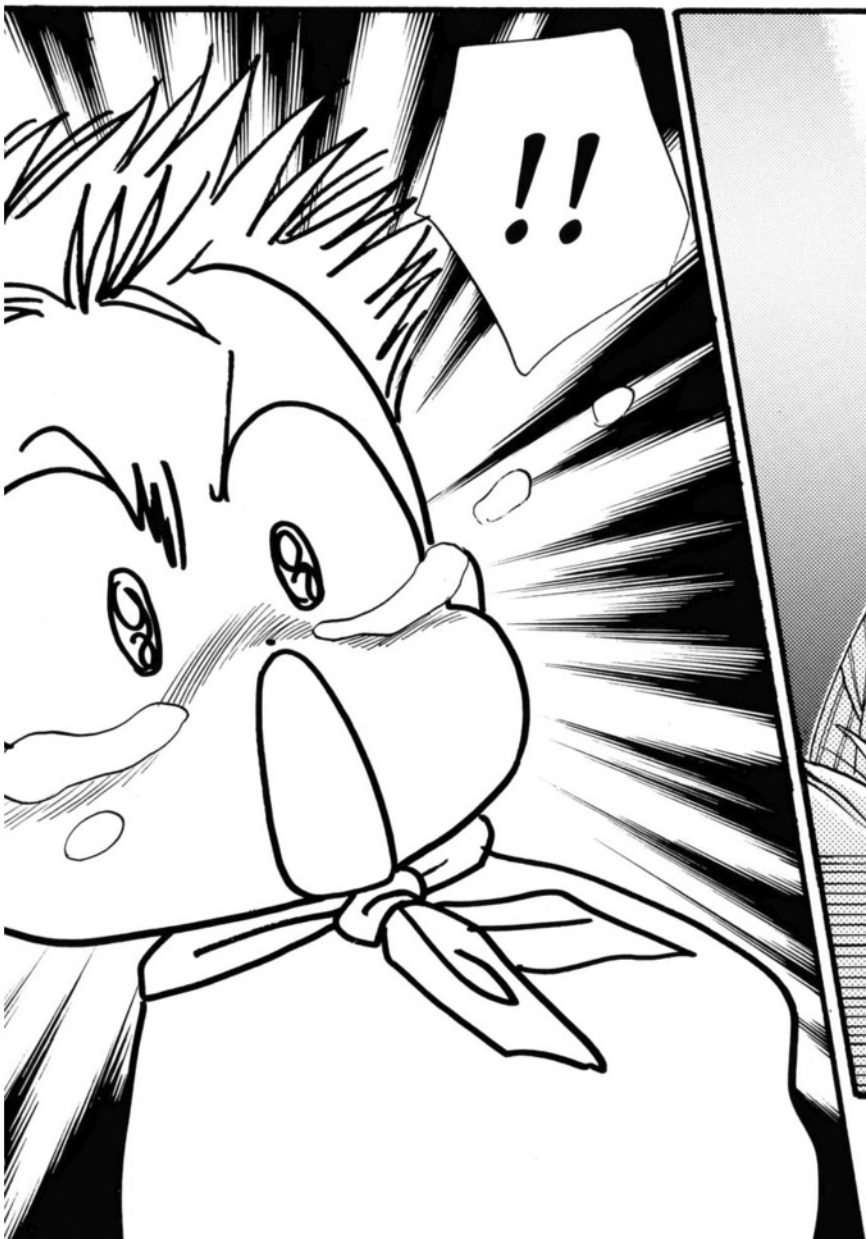
WAK
WAK
WAK
OOF!
OOF!
BUBBLE FIVE LOVE♡

STOP IT!
HEY, GRAND-MA!
BUBBLE LOVE



OH...

Bad grammar
GRANDPA'S HELPLESSER BEFORE GRANDMA.
SANKS FO' DINNO.
HMPH
HMPH
UGH
ORANGE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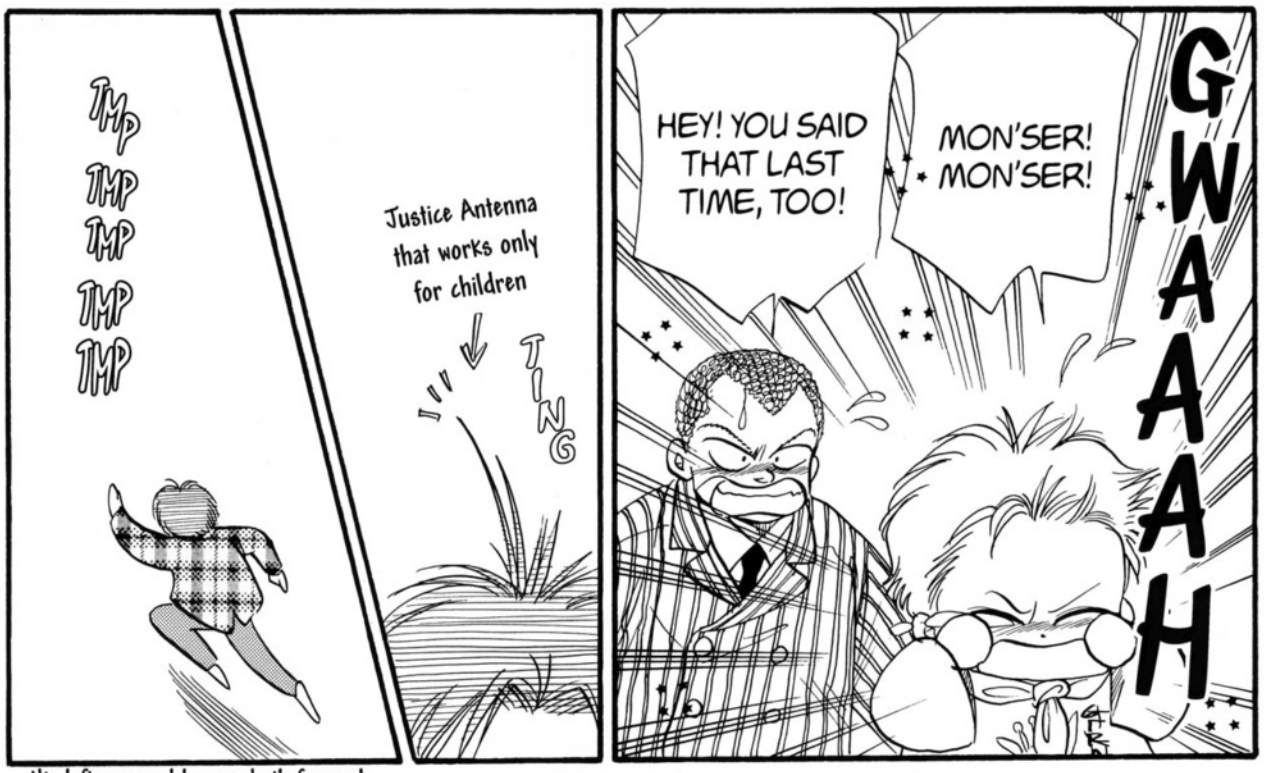
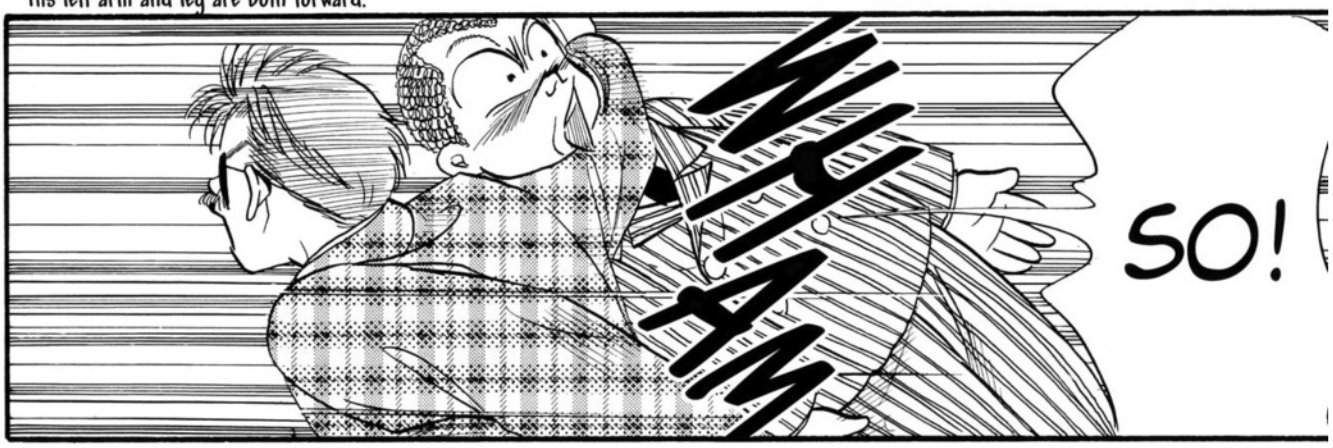
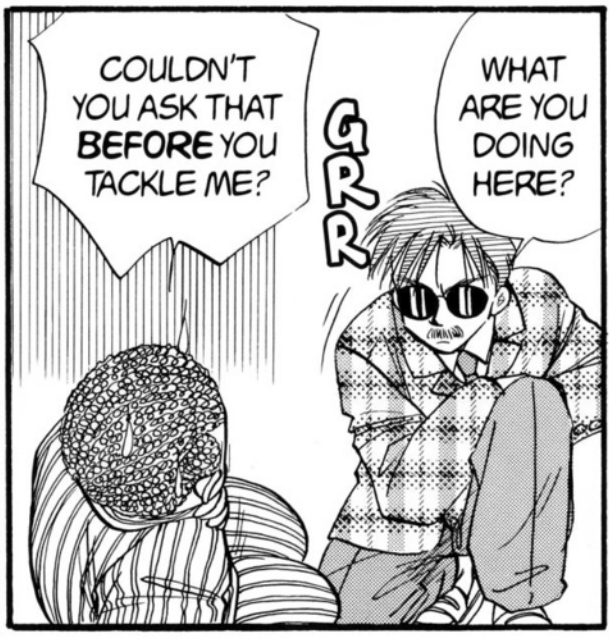


His left arm and leg are both forward.

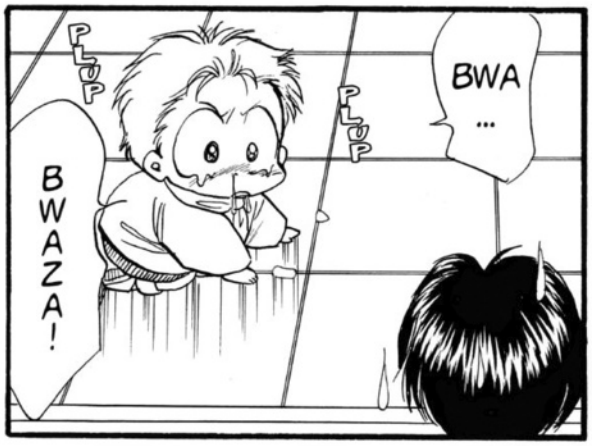




WHAT ?
YOUR MUS-TACHE MAKES YOU LOOK GAY.
WELL LET ME TELL YOU SOME-THING.
GRR

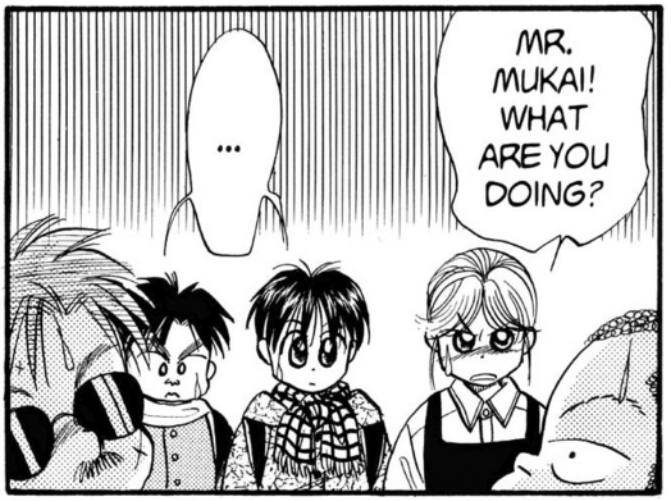
OH, YEAH ?
TWITCH

DO YOU HAVE TO ASK? YOU LOOK LIKE A YAKUZA.
WHY ARE THEY SCARED?

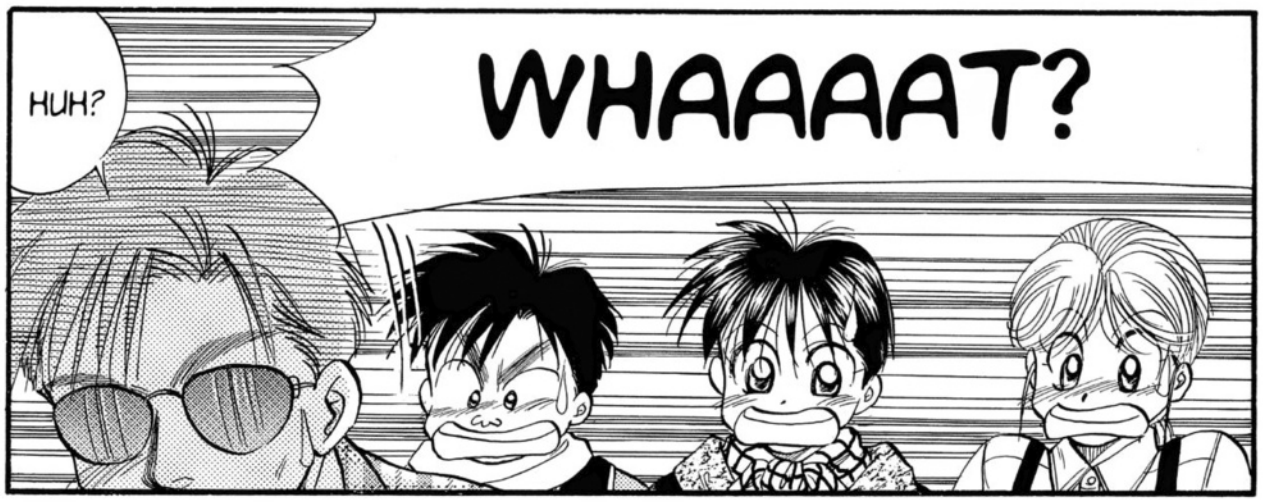

BWA ...
PLUP
PLUP
BWAZA!

WHO'RE YOU TALKING TO, BUDDHA HEAD?
WAP
WAP
WHY, YOU... CLOTHES HORSE!!
...
...

WHAT IS IT, MINORU ?
OH, TAKUYA. DON'T WORRY.
I GOT RID OF THE VILLAIN.
Waah!! Scawy! Mon'ser!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

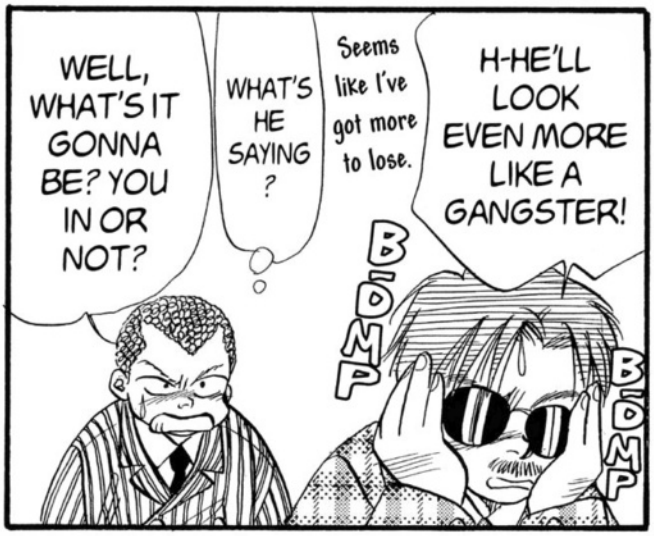

MR. MUKAI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
...

WOULD YOU BE INTER-ESTED IN...
...A WAGER?
YOJI.
WAP
POKE
A WAGER ?
THAT'S RIGHT.
AT SATUR-DAY'S SUMO COMPE-TITION...
...IF MY SCHOOL WINS...
...YOU HAVE TO DRESS JUST LIKE I DO!
YOU HAVE TO PERM YOUR HAIR, SHAVE OFF YOUR MUSTACHE AND LOSE THE SUN-GLASSES!
BWA
HA
HA
HA
OH!


HUH?
WHAAAAT?

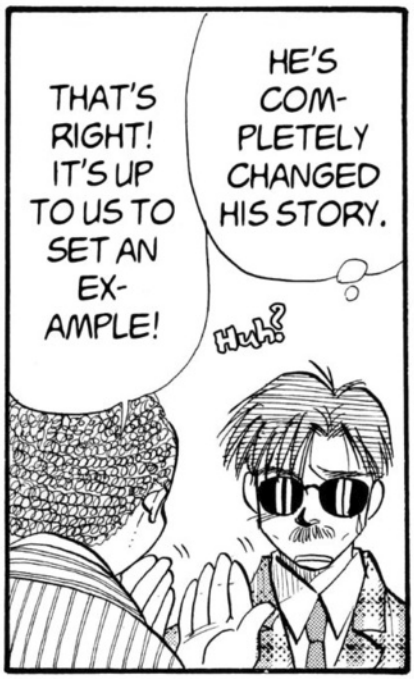
WE'RE DYING TO SEE HIS FACE!

HE'LL TAKE OFF HIS SUN-GLASSES. WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HIS FACE...
HE'LL SHAVE HIS MUS-TACHE ...
WHAT SHALL WE DO? I DON'T WANT US TO LOSE, BUT...


WELL, WHAT'S IT GONNA BE? YOU IN OR NOT?
WHAT'S HE SAYING ?
Seems like I've got more to lose.
H-HE'LL LOOK EVEN MORE LIKE A GANGSTER!
BIOMP
BIOMP

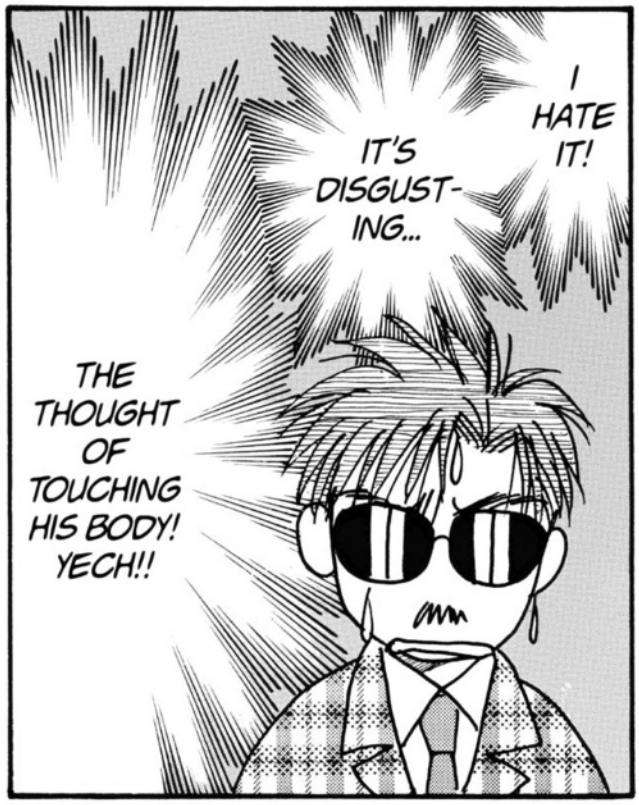
THEN I'LL GROW A MUSTACHE AND WEAR SUN-GLASSES.
AND IF WE WIN?

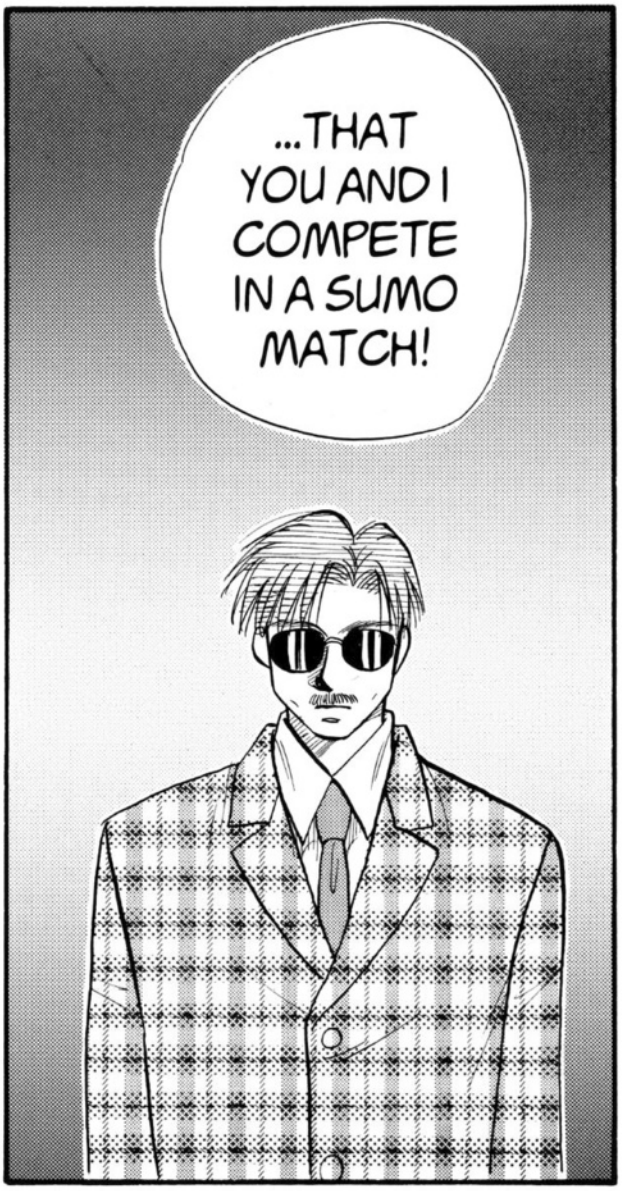
SO I PRO-POSE...
WE HAVE TO SWEAT JUST LIKE THEY DO!


THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S UP TO US TO SET AN EX-AMPLE!
HE'S COM-PLETELY CHANGED HIS STORY.
Huh?

ARE YOU KIDDING? IT'S OUR DUTY TO INSTILL A COMPETI-TIVE SPIRIT IN OUR STUDENTS!
BUT EDUCA-TORS SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT WINNING AND LOSING...

DOES HE LIKE THE IDEA?
HE'S NOT SAYING ANY-THING...
...

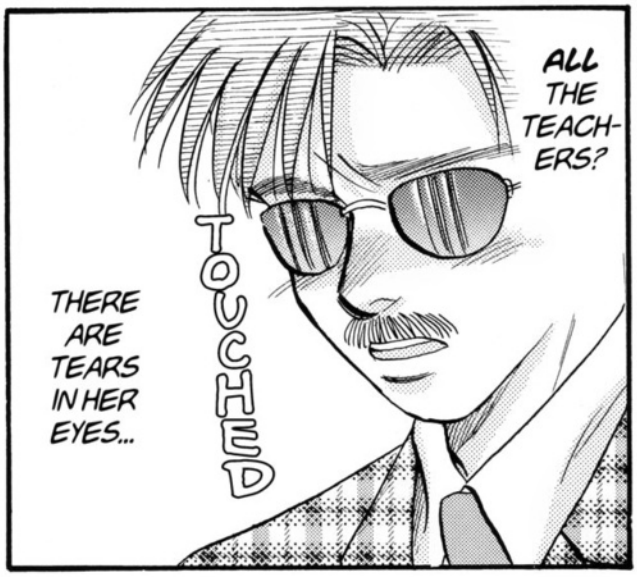

I HATE IT!
IT'S DISGUST-ING...
THE THOUGHT OF TOUCHING HIS BODY! YECH!!


...THAT YOU AND I COMPETE IN A SUMO MATCH!

I SAY...
STING
...LET'S DO IT!
STING

YES?

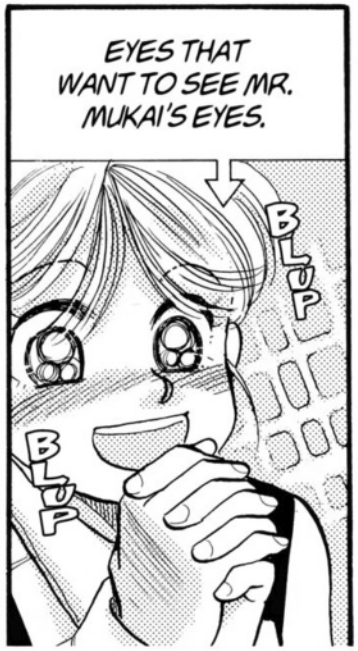
I HATE IT...I HATE IT...
M...MR. MUKAI...
AHEM
WAP

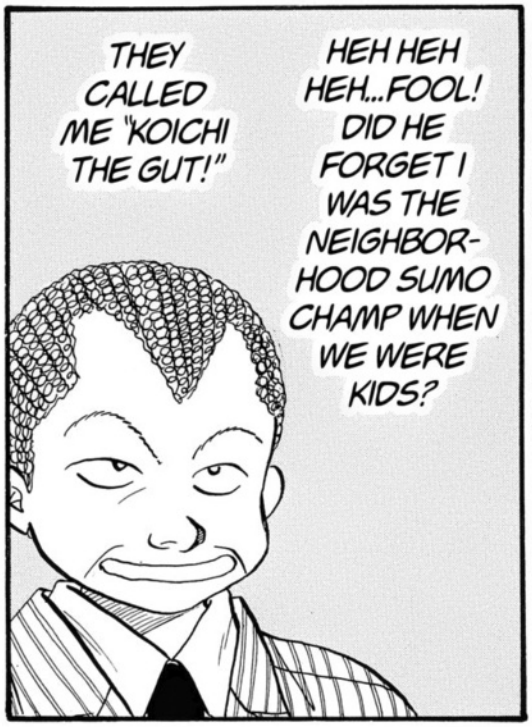

ALL THE TEACHERS?
TOUCHED
THERE ARE TEARS IN HER EYES...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU'LL HAVE OUR FULL SUPPORT, MR. MUKAI! GO FOR IT!!
HEY, THIS IS BETWEEN MY BROTHER AND ME.
I'M SURE ALL THE OTHER TEACHERS FEEL THE SAME WAY!

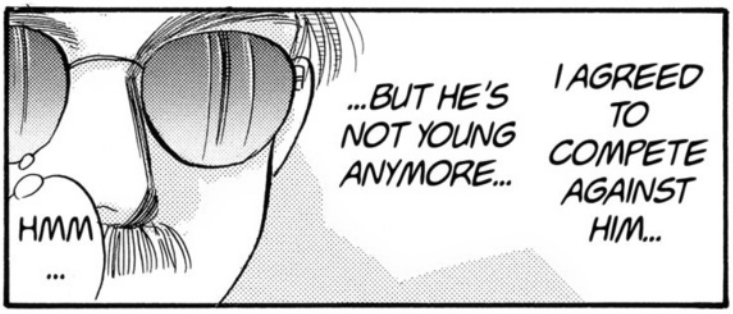
HUH?
KO-ICHI !!
WIP

REALLY ?
HUH?
I'M SURE TAKUYA AGREES, TOO!


EYES THAT WANT TO SEE MR. MUKAI'S EYES.
BLUP
BLUP


THEY CALLED ME "KOICHI THE GUT!"
HEH HEH HEH...FOOL! DID HE FORGET I WAS THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD SUMO CHAMP WHEN WE WERE KIDS?

WHAP
I KNEW YOU COULDN'T RESIST!!
YOU'RE ON!!


HMM ...
...BUT HE'S NOT YOUNG ANYMORE...
I AGREED TO COMPETE AGAINST HIM...

WELL, MY BUSINESS HERE IS FINISHED. I'LL BE ON MY WAY.
WELL, THEN... TAKE CARE.

MR. MUKAI! MR. MUKAI!
FWAP
FWAP
Yeah
I HOPE I CAN BEAT HIM WITHOUT HURTING HIM.

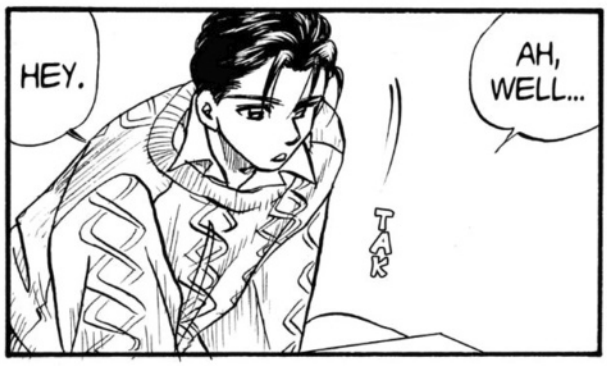
...

WOULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR?
YES?
AHEM
B-BY THE WAY, TAKUYA ...
WHAT'S SHE SO HAPPY ABOUT?
SKIP
SKIP
I'LL GO TELL THE OTHER TEACHERS THE NEWS!
SURE.
AT THE SUMO COMPETI-TION ON SATURDAY ...
...WOULD YOU ROOT FOR ME?
HURRAY
HURRAY
HEH...
HE'S SO WEIRD.
...
You will?
UH... SURE.

Chapter 61 / The End

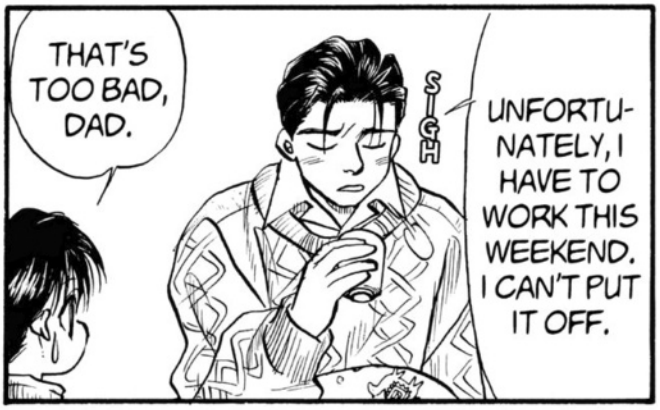
BABY & Me
Chapter 62

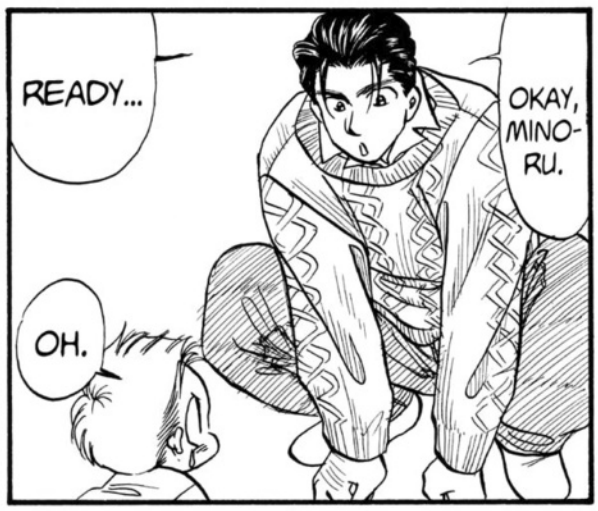
MINORU WAS CHOSEN FOR THE SUMO COMPETITION?
IS THAT RIGHT?
THAT'S GREAT!


HEY.
AH, WELL...
TAK

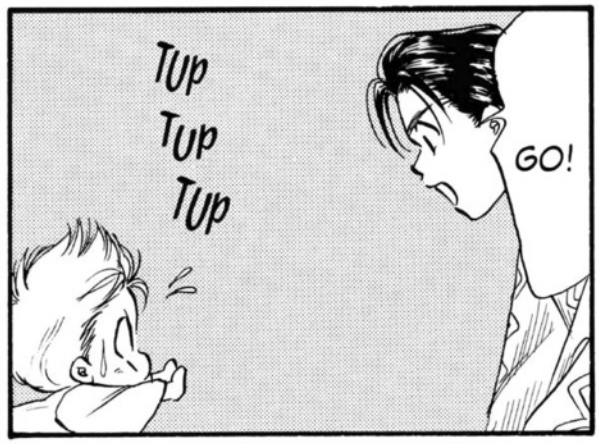
OH!
HE'S EMBARRASSED.
CAN YOU COME TO HIS MATCH ON SATURDAY, DAD?

WILL YOU SHOW ME WHAT A STRONG SUMO WRESTLER YOU ARE?
MINORU...
HUH?


THAT'S TOO BAD, DAD.
SIGH
UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE TO WORK THIS WEEKEND. I CAN'T PUT IT OFF.


READY...
OKAY, MINO-RU.
OH.

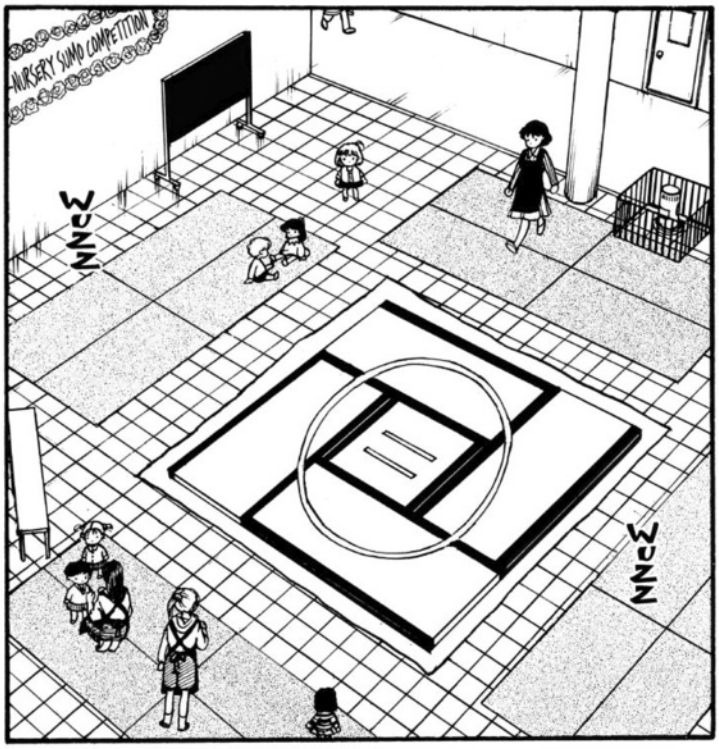
IT'S OKAY. I'M NOT GONNA THROW HIM OR ANY-THING.
YOU'RE GOING TO WRESTLE HERE? IS IT SAFE?
UMPH ...
UMPH ...
Warming Up


TUP TUP TUP
GO!

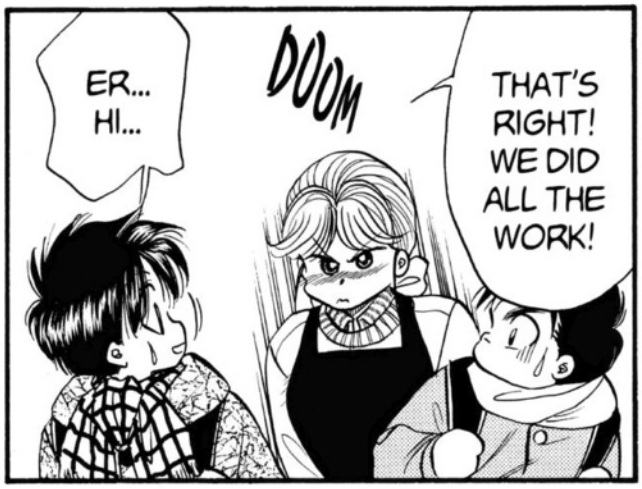
YOU'RE SURE THEY CHOSE HIM?
I THINK SO.
AND SO...

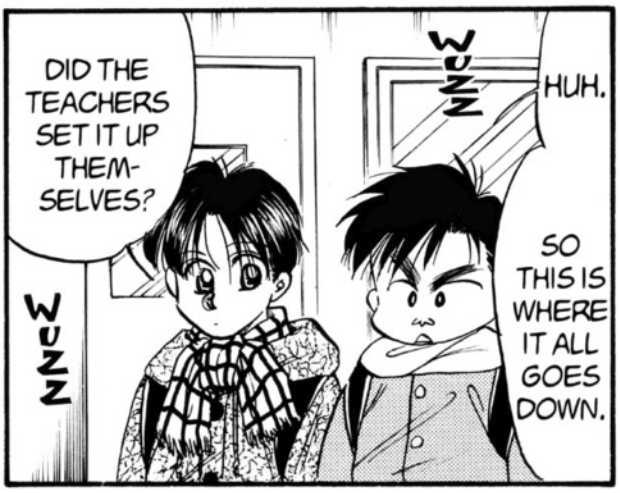
...
Imprint of face
FW
UMP

OH.
WH AM
UGH!

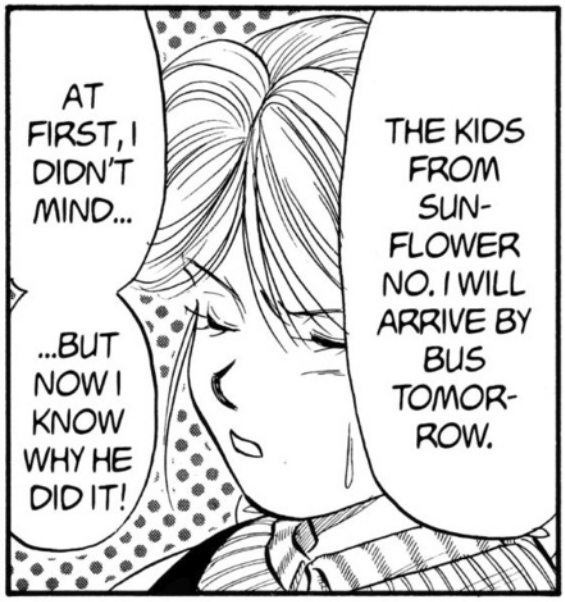

NURSERY SUMO COMPETITION
WUNN
WUNN

ONE DAY BEFORE THE SUMO COMPETI-TION...


ER... HI...
DOOM
THAT'S RIGHT! WE DID ALL THE WORK!

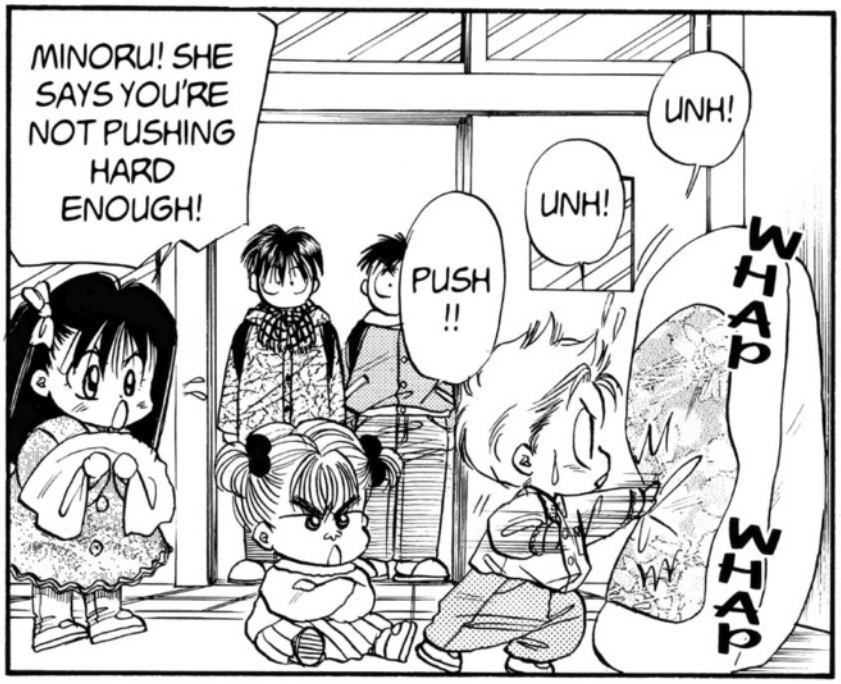

DID THE TEACHERS SET IT UP THEM-SELVES?
WUNN
WUNN
HUH.
SO THIS IS WHERE IT ALL GOES DOWN.

Arrgh! We have to clean up, too!
...
KOICHI MUKAI KNEW THAT SETTING EVERY-THING UP WOULD BE A PAIN, SO HE MADE US DO IT!


AT FIRST, I DIDN'T MIND...
...BUT NOW I KNOW WHY HE DID IT!
THE KIDS FROM SUN-FLOWER NO. I WILL ARRIVE BY BUS TOMOR-ROW.

I'M HERE FOR HIRO.
PANDA CLASS
I'M HERE TO PICK UP MINORU.

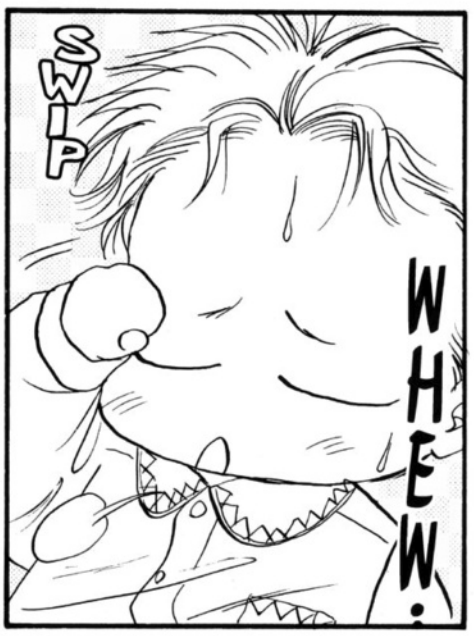
YEAH ...
These heaters are too heavy!
BUT IT'S MORE CONVENIENT FOR THE PARENTS ...
...TO HAVE IT HERE.

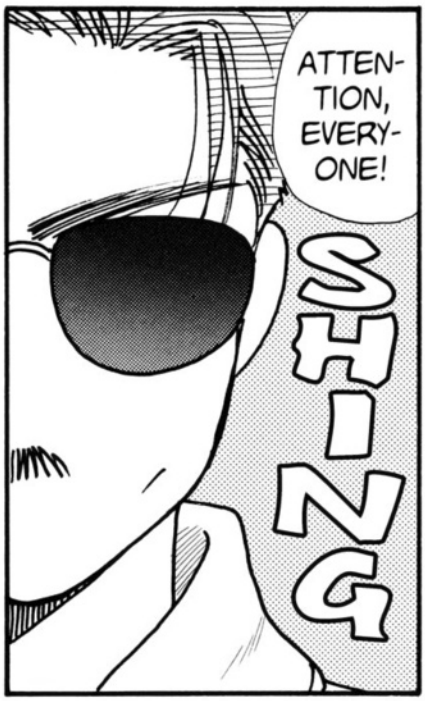

MINORU! SHE SAYS YOU'RE NOT PUSHING HARD ENOUGH!
PUSH !!
UNH!
UNH!
WHAP
WHAP

WHAP
WHAP

HIS OWN TRAINING STAFF.
OH.
BWAZA.

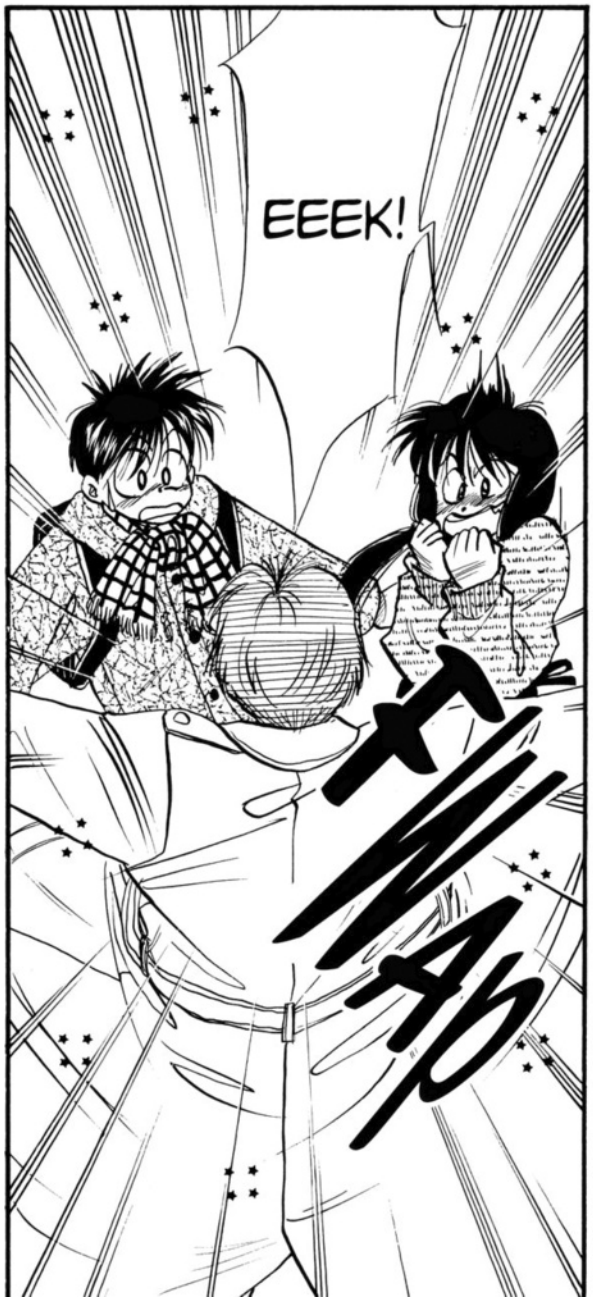
HERE YOU GO, MINORU.
SNUFF
SNUFF


SWIP
WHEW!


ATTEN-TION, EVERY-ONE!
SHING

THEY'RE GOING TO WEAR SHORTS ?
I DOUBT THEY MAKE SUMO LOIN-CLOTHS IN THEIR SIZE, RIGHT?
We wouldn't know how to tie them, anyway.
And what if they need to use the restroom?

OH, HELLO!
THE KIDS NEED TO BRING SHORTS TOMOR-ROW.


EEEK!
HAB

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ALL HERE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ?
WH-WHAT IS IT, MR. MUKAI?
That overcoat looks suspicious.

THERE'S SOME-THING...
...I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE A LOOK AT!
THERE IS?
HEH HEH HEH

Author's Note: Part 7

This is the last author's note of the volume.

Readers often ask me about my younger brother, but there's nothing special to say about him, so here's a picture he drew.

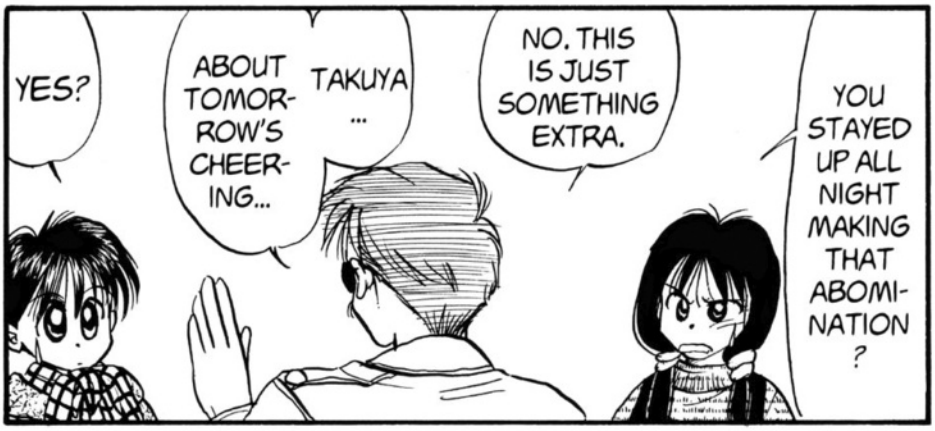
Ha ha ha! What do you think? Can you believe a 21-year-old drew that?

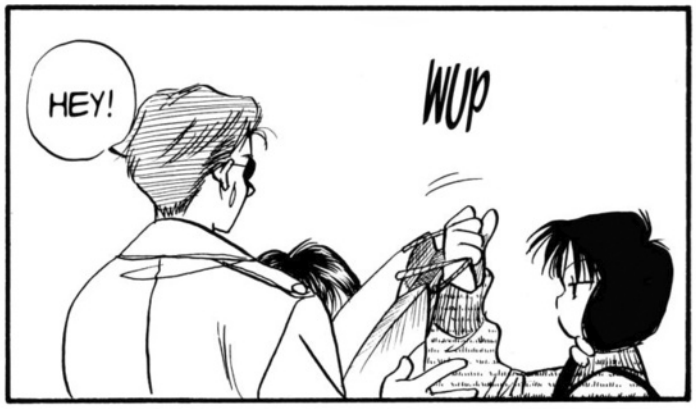
It's terrible... ♪♪

People write my name with the wrong *kanji* a lot. They get Takuya's name wrong, too. ♪♪ Sometimes the results can be very funny. I can't help but laugh.

Okay, I'll see you again in Volume 12!

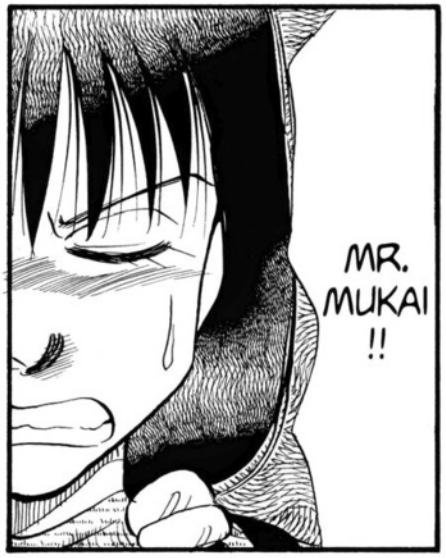
Ciao! ♡




HEY!
WUp

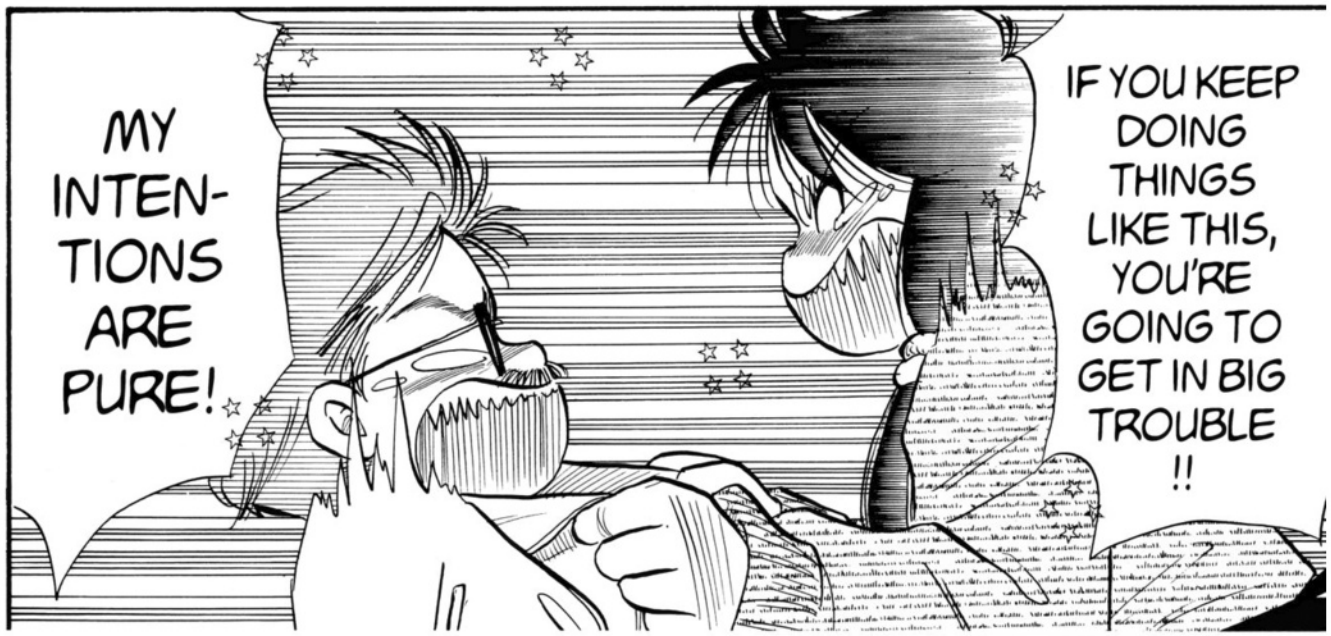
I SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT MAKING IT.
HUH?
WOULD YOU PLEASE... WEAR THIS?
SWUP..

SWUFF
NO
SWUFF
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

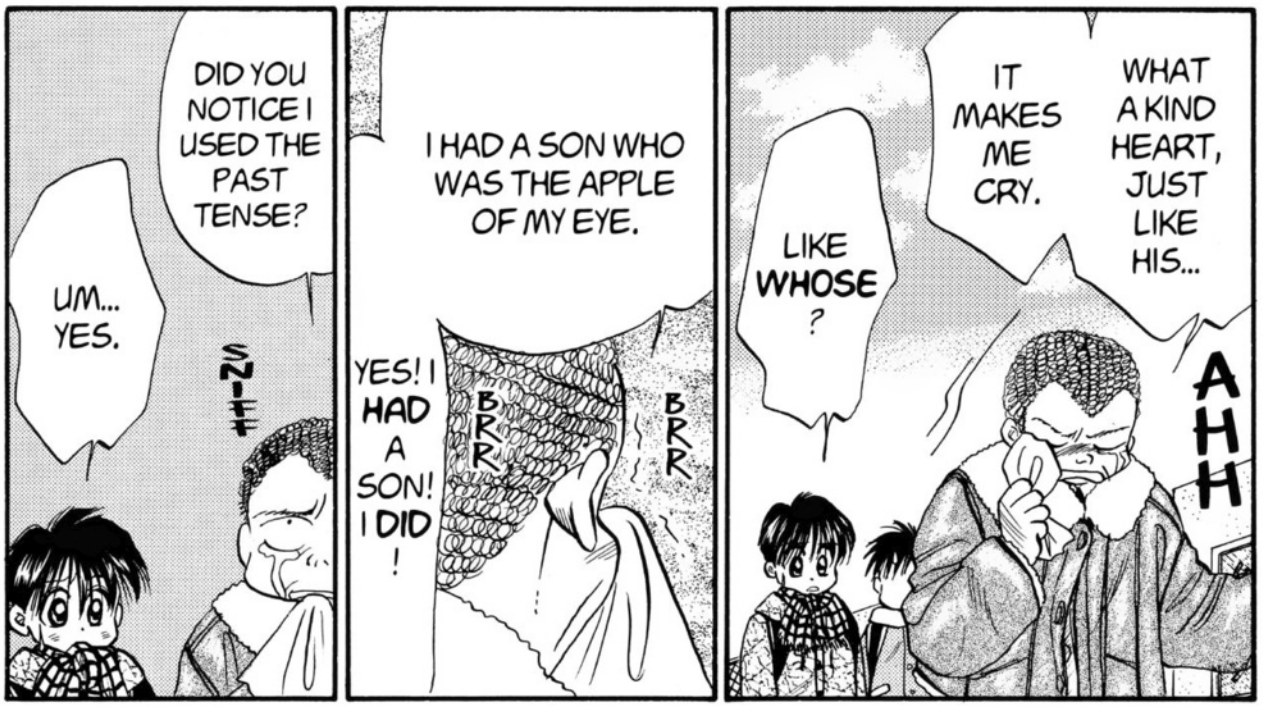

MR. MUKAI !!

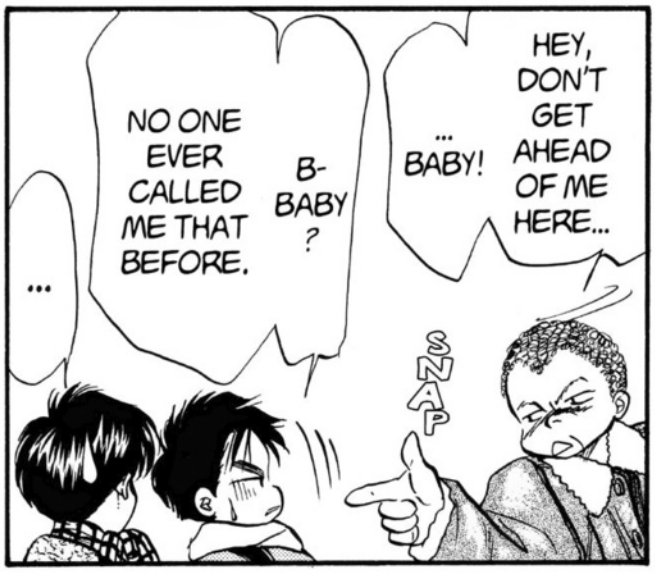
FWOp
...

SWIp
...


MY INTEN-TIONS ARE PURE!
IF YOU KEEP DOING THINGS LIKE THIS, YOU'RE GOING TO GET IN BIG TROUBLE !!

I GUESS I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND BEFORE.
BY CHEER-ING, I THOUGHT HE MEANT...
HMM ...
What if the parents complain?
YAK YAK
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT A GUY LIKE THAT...
...GOT PUT IN CHARGE OF A NURSERY SCHOOL.
Oh.
...JUST ROOTING FOR SUNFLOWER NO. 2. IT'S MINORU'S SCHOOL, AFTER ALL...
HELLO, THERE !
PLUP PLUP
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME. PLEASE, WON'T YOU LISTEN TO MY STORY?
ER...I GUESS SO...
YOU WILL ?
OH! IT'S TRUE! I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!
IT'S MR. MUKAI'S BROTH-ER.


DID YOU NOTICE I USED THE PAST TENSE?
UM... YES.
SNIFF
I HAD A SON WHO WAS THE APPLE OF MY EYE.
YES! I HAD A SON! I DID!
BRR
BRR
WHAT A KIND HEART, JUST LIKE HIS...
IT MAKES ME CRY.
LIKE WHOSE?
AHH

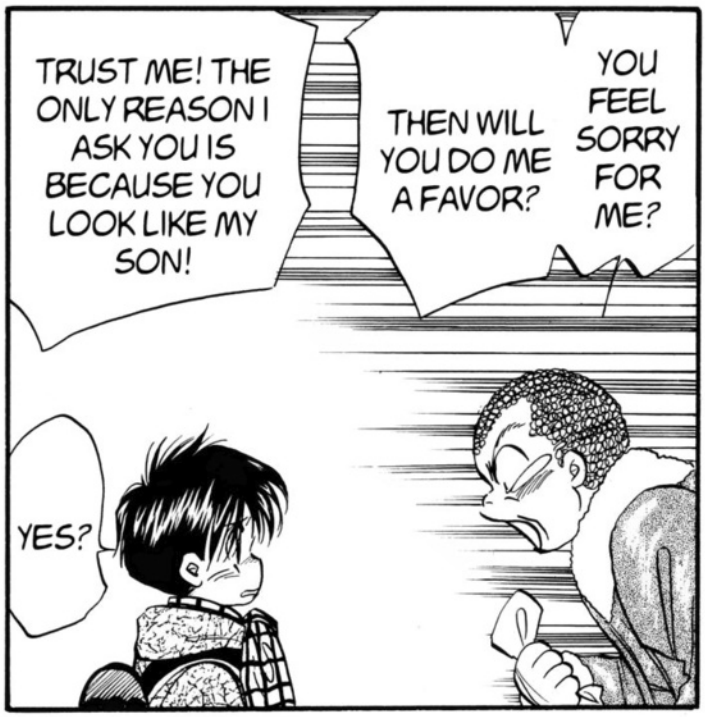

HEY, DON'T GET AHEAD OF ME HERE...
...BABY!
B-BABY?
NO ONE EVER CALLED ME THAT BEFORE.
...
SNAP

YOU APPRENTICE HIM OUT OR SOMETHING?
YES!! THERE WERE TOO MANY MOUTHS TO FEED!
THOSE WERE HARD TIMES! IT WAS THE ONLY WAY WE COULD SURVIVE THE WINTER!

HIS ONLY COMFORT WAS A TREE--WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF TREE--THAT HE COULD SEE FROM HIS HOSPITAL WINDOW.
DAD...

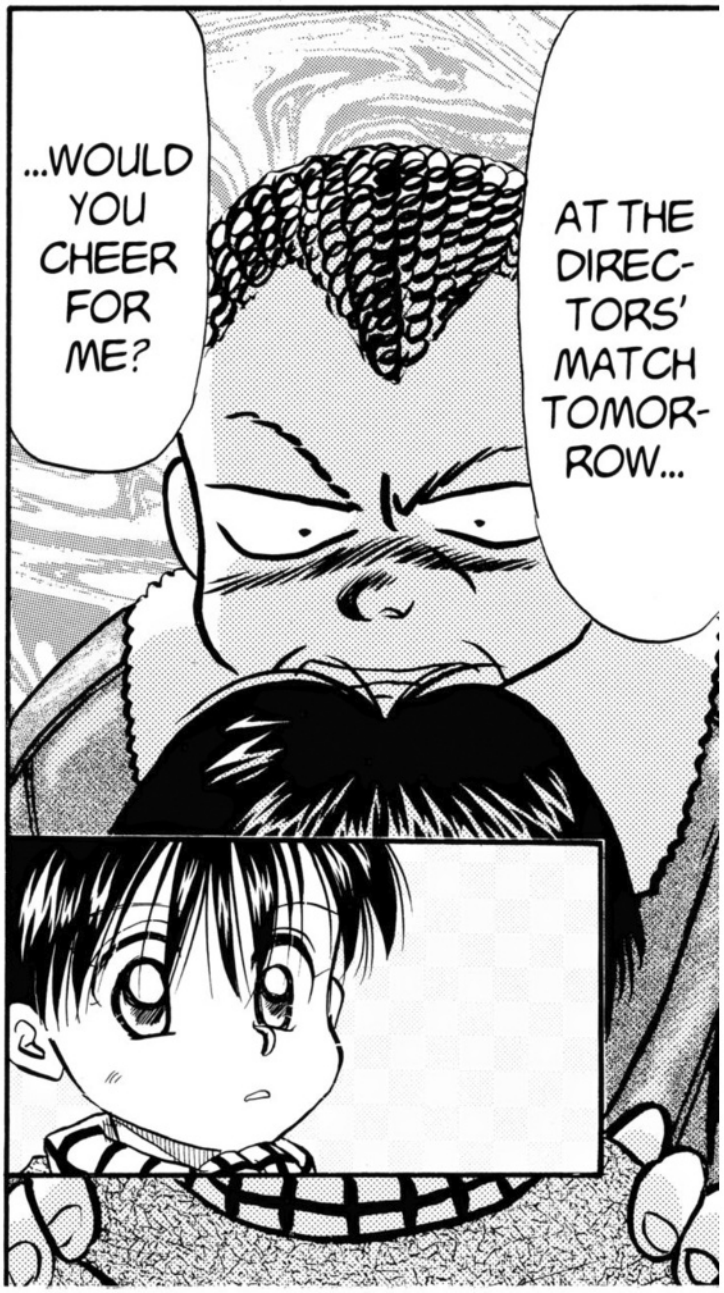
MY SON, KOHEI, CAME DOWN WITH CONSUMPTION TWO YEARS AGO...
WHAT CENTURY IS HE FROM?

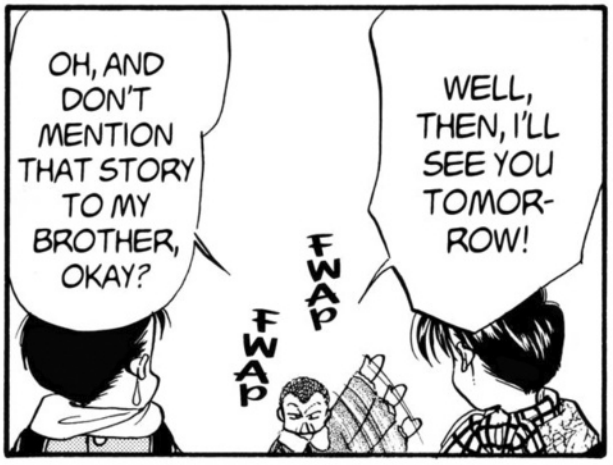
THEN, ONE COLD WINTER DAY, THE LAST LEAF FELL...
SNIFF
...AND MY SON DE-PARTED THIS LIFE.
I TOLD HIM THAT WAS CRAZY TALK...
BUT EVERY TIME A LEAF FELL, KOHEI GREW WEAKER.
WHEN ALL THE LEAVES FALL OFF... I'M GOING TO DIE.
SON!! DON'T SAY THAT!!
IF HE WERE ALIVE, HE WOULD BE IN SEV-ENTH GRADE.
SNIFF
HONK
HE USED TO LOVE TO SEE ME COMPETE IN SUMO.
SILENCE
SOUNDS FISHY.
I'M SORRY. IT'S SUCH A SAD STORY.
IT'S JUST THAT...YOU LOOK SO MUCH LIKE KOHEI.
SHWOOOO
I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.
KUNK
WH-WHAT ?


TRUST ME! THE ONLY REASON I ASK YOU IS BECAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE MY SON!
THEN WILL YOU DO ME A FAVOR?
YOU FEEL SORRY FOR ME?
YES?

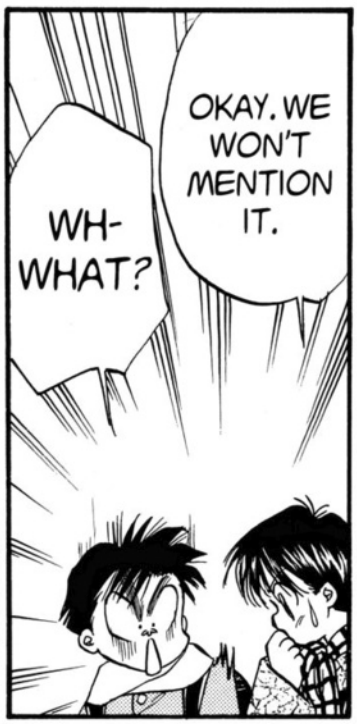
MINO-RU, TOO?
PLUP
UBB ...
PLUP
OH, NO WAY!

YOU WILL? YOU'LL CHEER FOR ME? SUPER!
BWA HA HA HA HA
NOD


...WOULD YOU CHEER FOR ME?
AT THE DIREC-TORS' MATCH TOMOR-ROW...


OH, AND DON'T MENTION THAT STORY TO MY BROTHER, OKAY?
WELL, THEN, I'LL SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!
FWAP
FWAP

DOES HE ACTU-ALLY...
NOTH-ING.
WHAT'S WRONG ?

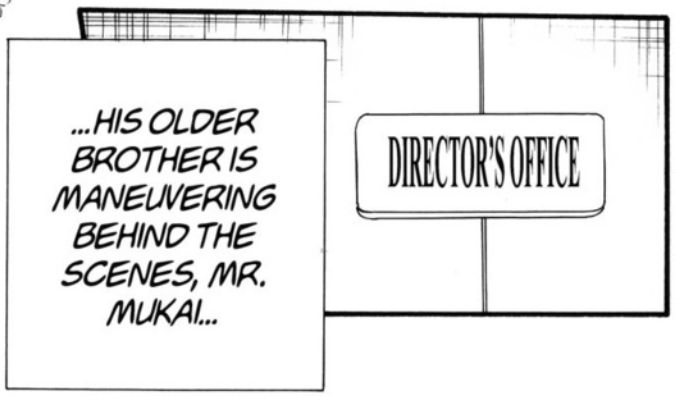

WH-WHAT?
OKAY. WE WON'T MENTION IT.

THIS STORY GETS FISHIER BY THE MINUTE.
HE STILL FEELS GUILTY ABOUT IT.
BECAUSE HE GAVE THAT DISEASE TO KOHEI!
WHY NOT ?

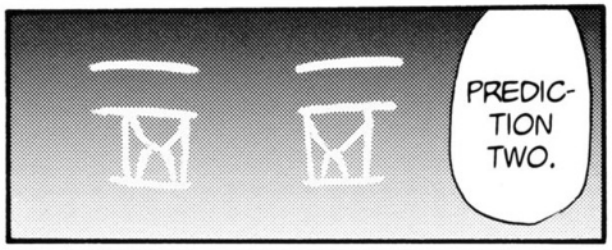
EXCEL-LENT...

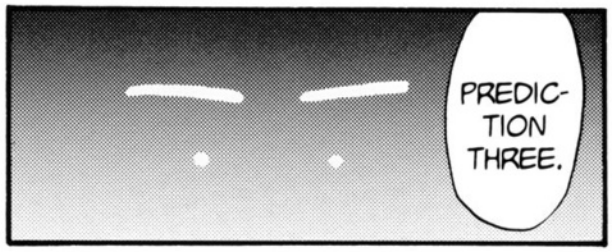
BUT I WORRY ABOUT HIS FUTURE.
HE WAS EVEN EASIER TO FOOL THAN I EXPECTED.
UN-AWARE THAT...

WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
HMM... IF THAT LOINCLOTH WON'T WORK...
The bunny loincloth! ♡
TAFOAH
I can't take it! I don't want to draw this! I'd rather die!

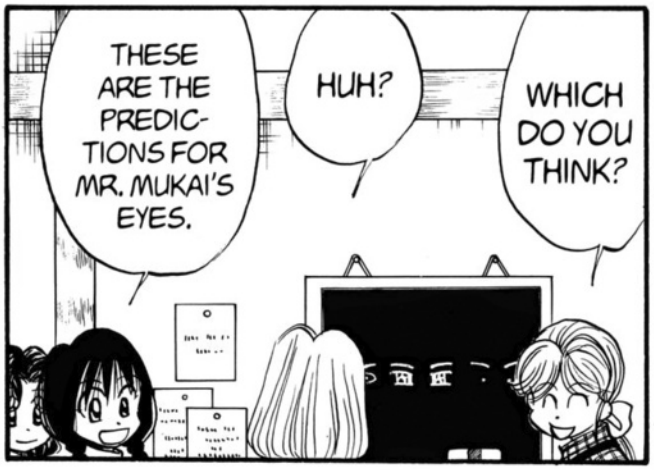

...IS DOING JUST WHAT WE'D EXPECT.
...HIS OLDER BROTHER IS MANEUVERING BEHIND THE SCENES, MR. MUKAI...
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

PREDIC-TION ONE.

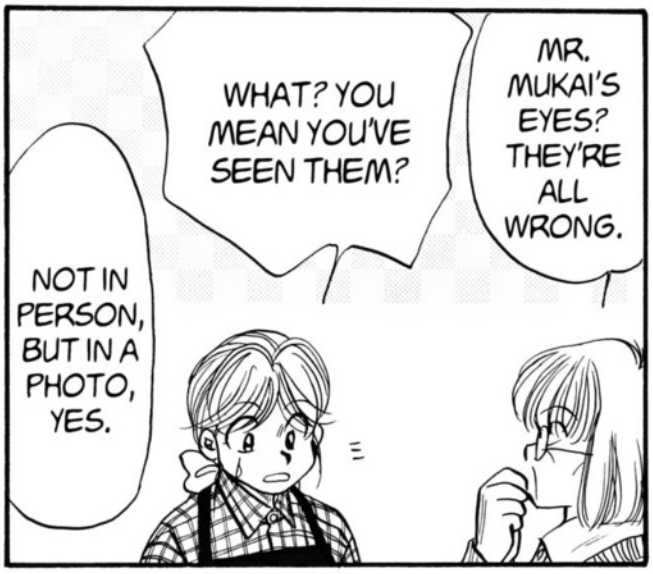

PREDIC-TION TWO.

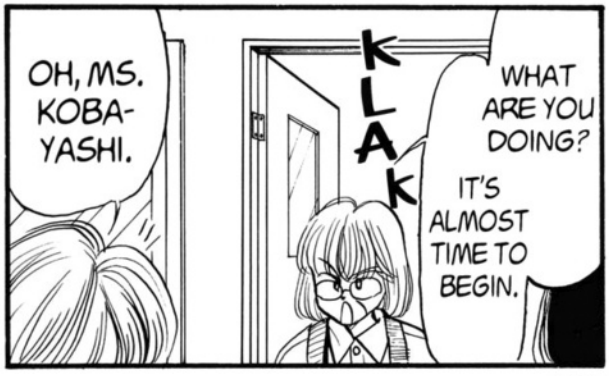

PREDIC-TION THREE.

THE NEXT DAY... THE DAY OF THE SUMO COMPETITION...
WUZZ
WUZZ
INTER-
D COMPETITION


THESE ARE THE PREDIC-TIONS FOR MR. MUKAI'S EYES.
HUH?
WHICH DO YOU THINK?

NONE OF THEM ARE WHAT I'D CALL GOOD-LOOKING.
HMM ...
WHICH DO YOU THINK ARE MR. MUKAI'S EYES?
WELL ?


NOT IN PERSON, BUT IN A PHOTO, YES.
WHAT? YOU MEAN YOU'VE SEEN THEM?
MR. MUKAI'S EYES? THEY'RE ALL WRONG.

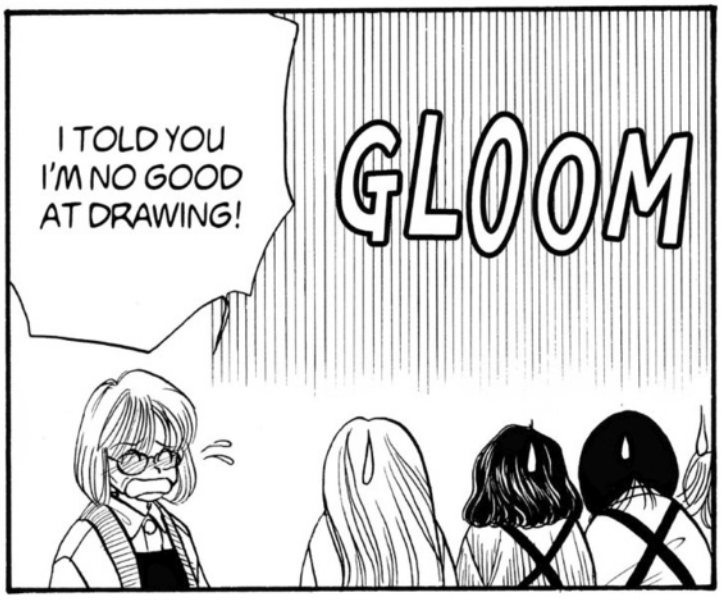

OH, MS. KOBA-YASHI.
KLAK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO BEGIN.

IS THIS HOW THEY WERE?
CHAK

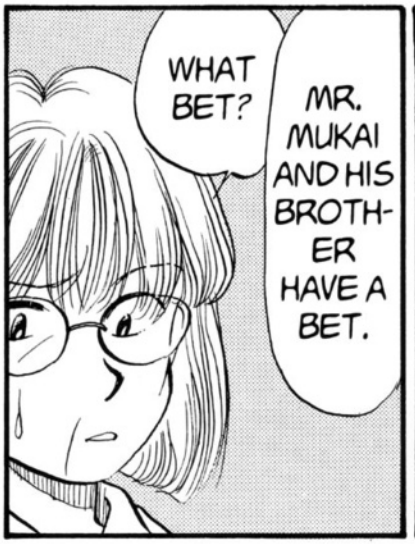
CHAK
A ROUGH SKETCH? ALL RIGHT...
CHAK

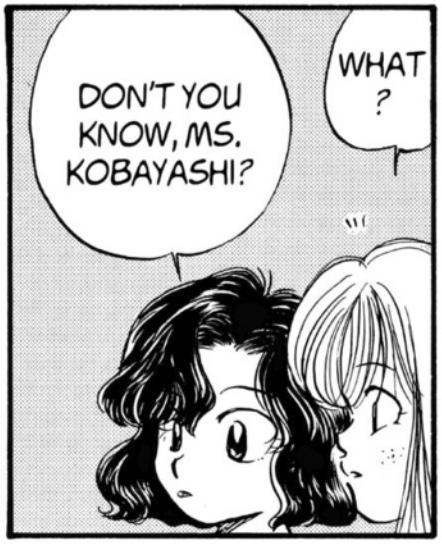
I DON'T THINK SO. I'M NOT GOOD AT DRAWING.
THAT'S INCREDIBLE! DRAW THEM FOR US, MS. KOBAYASHI!
A ROUGH SKETCH WILL DO!

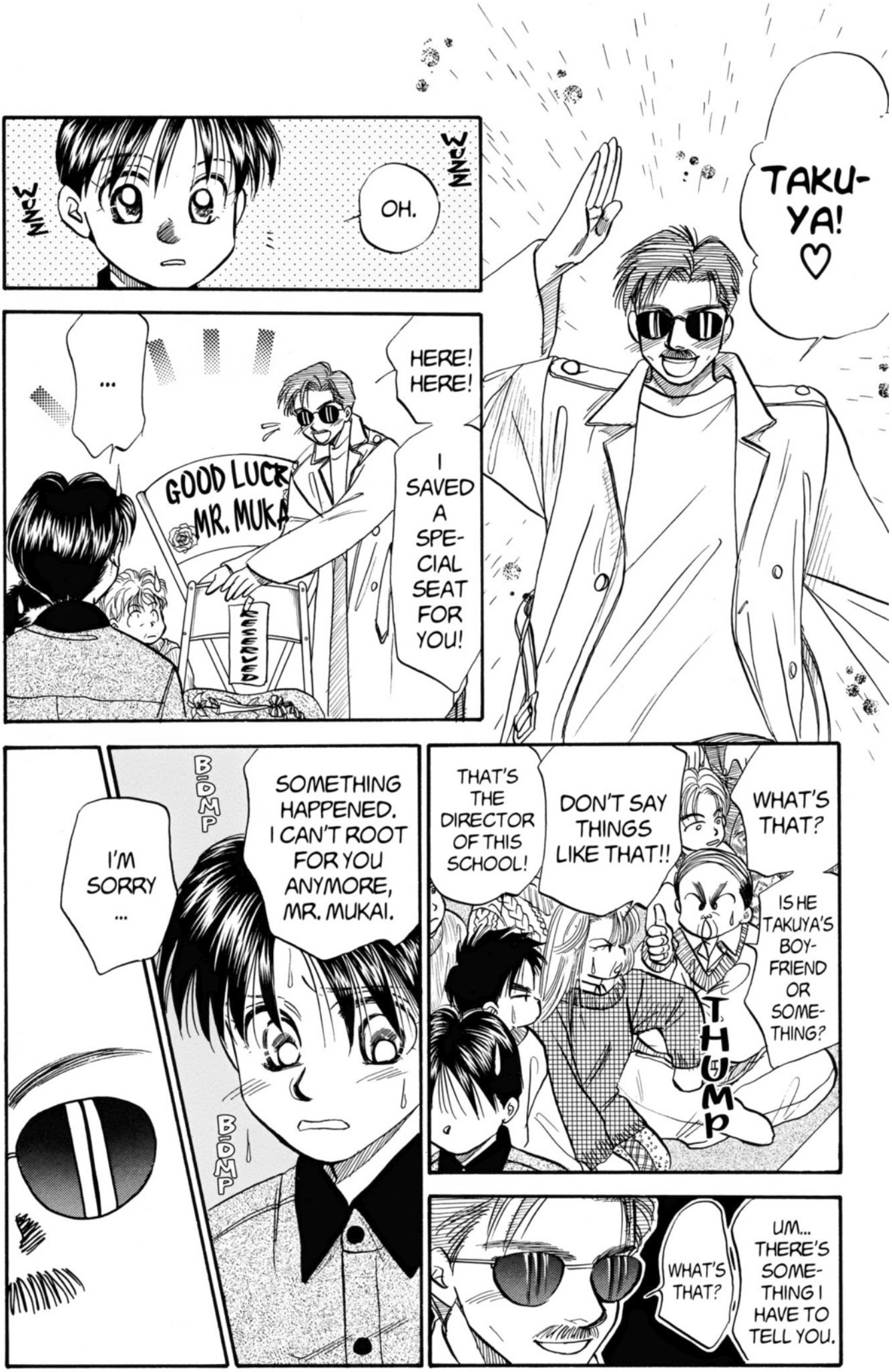
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
?
WE'RE SORRY. WE JUST CAN'T WAIT FOR MR. MUKAI TO LOSE SO THAT WE CAN SEE HIS EYES.


I TOLD YOU I'M NO GOOD AT DRAWING!
GLOOM

WELL, HERE'S WHAT HAP-PENED ...

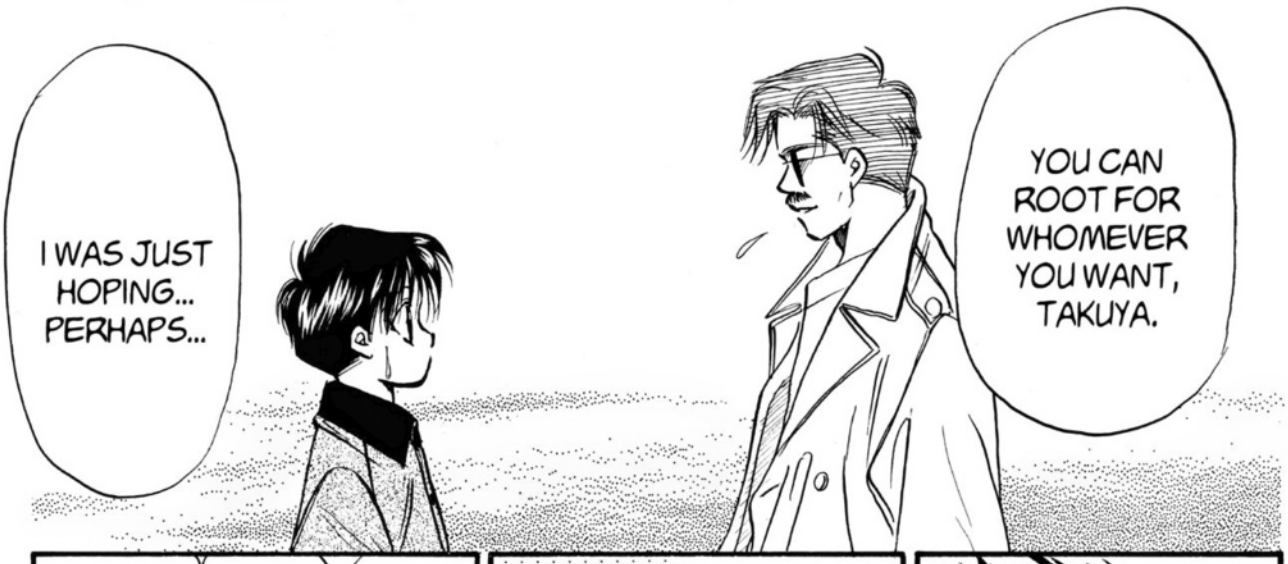

WHAT BET?
MR. MUKAI AND HIS BROTH-ER HAVE A BET.


DON'T YOU KNOW, MS. KOBAYASHI?
WHAT ?


WUNN
OH.
WUNN
TAKU-YA! ♡
...
HERE! HERE!
GOOD LUCK MR. MUKA
I SAVED A SPE-CIAL SEAT FOR YOU!
BIOMP
SOMETHING HAPPENED. I CAN'T ROOT FOR YOU ANYMORE, MR. MUKAI.
I'M SORRY ...
BIOMP
THAT'S THE DIRECTOR OF THIS SCHOOL!
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!!
WHAT'S THAT?
IS HE TAKUYA'S BOY-FRIEND OR SOME-THING?
THUMP
WHAT'S THAT?
UM... THERE'S SOME-THING I HAVE TO TELL YOU.

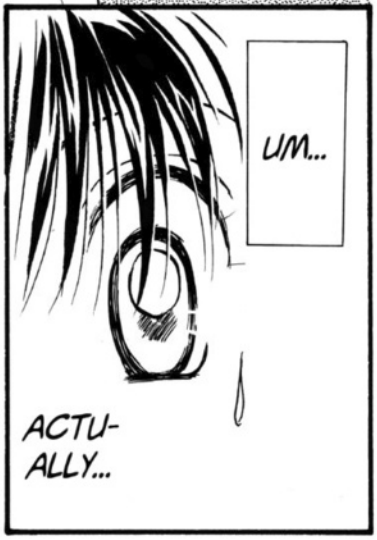
DON'T GIVE IT A SECOND THOUGHT.
IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.

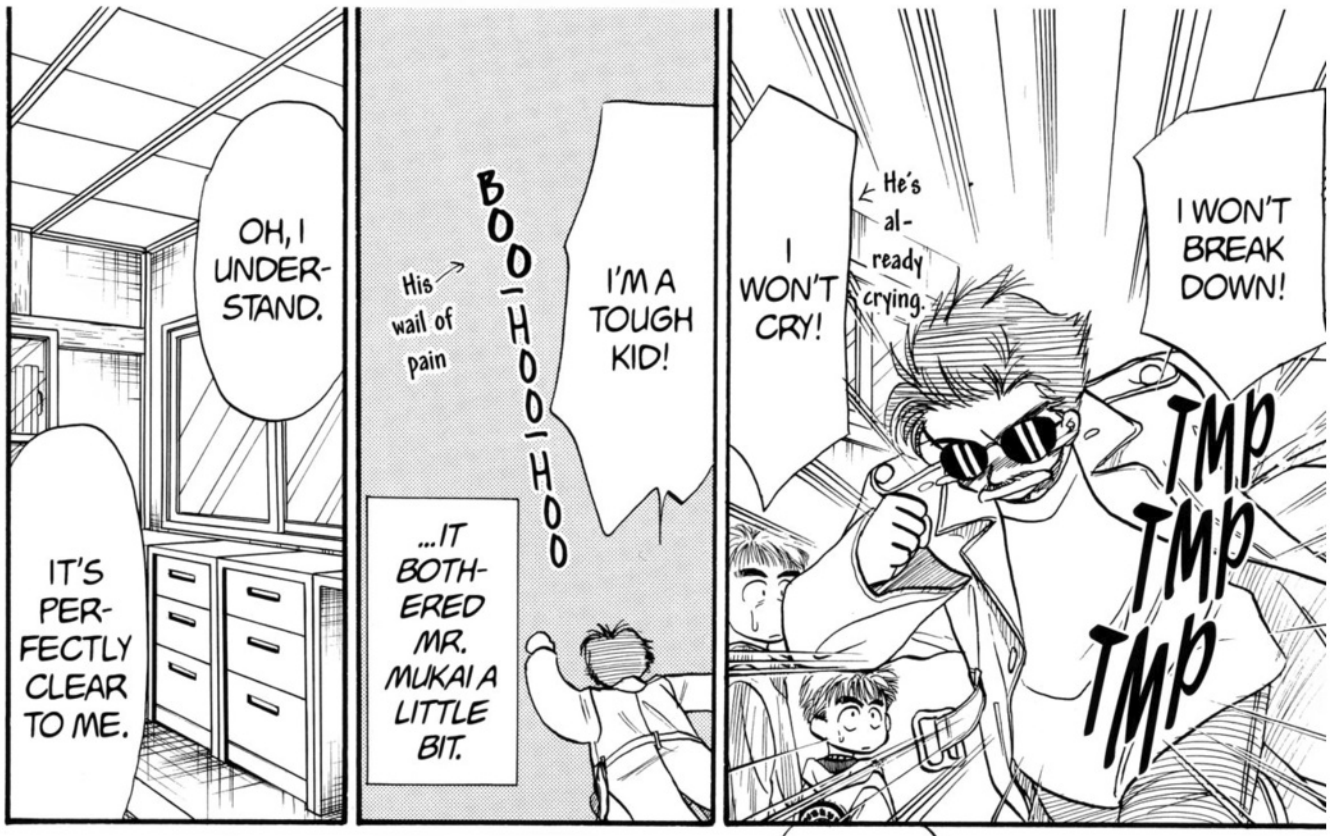
I UNDER-STAND.
HUH?

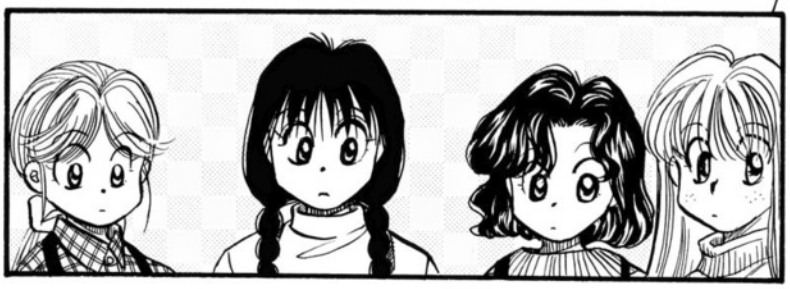

I WAS JUST HOPING... PERHAPS...
YOU CAN ROOT FOR WHOMEVER YOU WANT, TAKUYA.

HE SAID IT WAS ALL RIGHT, RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY.
I THINK I HURT HIS FEEL-INGS.
WAP
BUT...

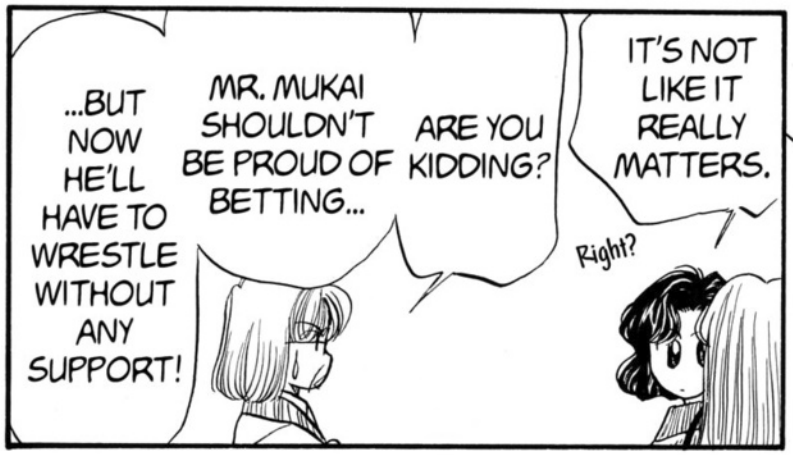
SEE YOU.
...I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND AT FIRST.
TMP

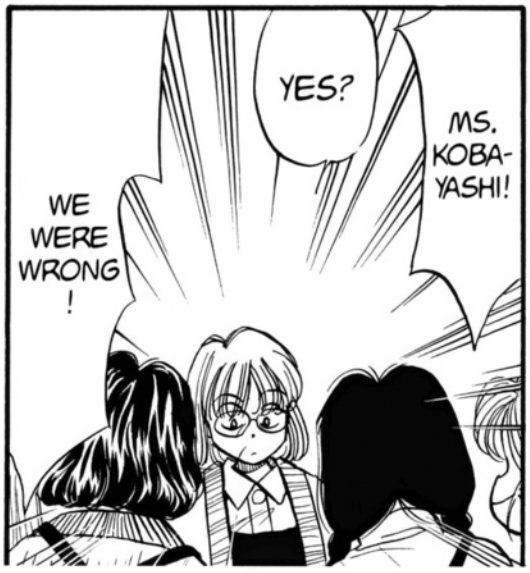

UM...
ACTU-ALLY...


OH, I UNDERSTAND.
IT'S PERFECTLY CLEAR TO ME.
BOO-HOO-HOO
His wail of pain
I'M A TOUGH KID!
...IT BOTHERED MR. MUKAI A LITTLE BIT.
I WON'T CRY!
He's already crying.
I WON'T BREAK DOWN!
TMP TMP TMP

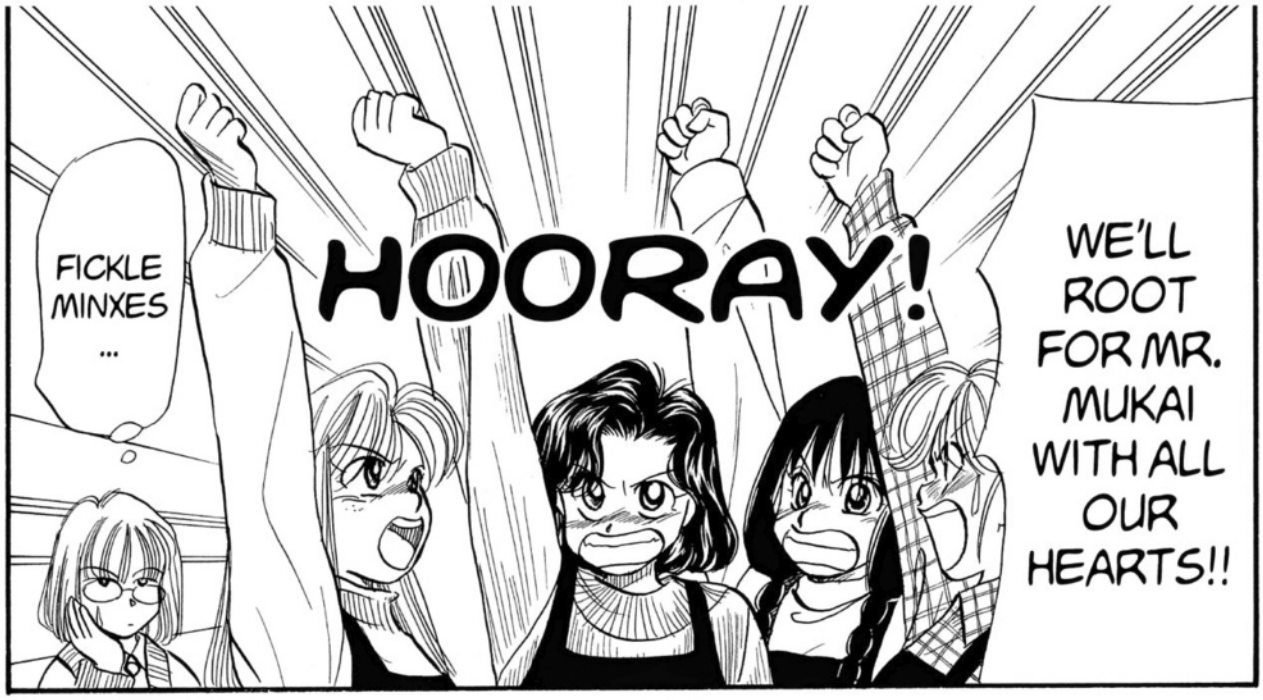


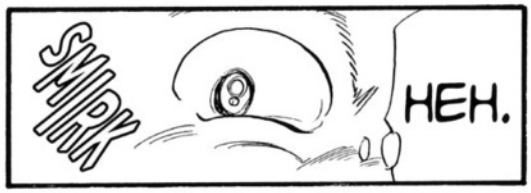
ALL OF YOU...
...WANT MR. MUKAI TO LOSE THE MATCH.

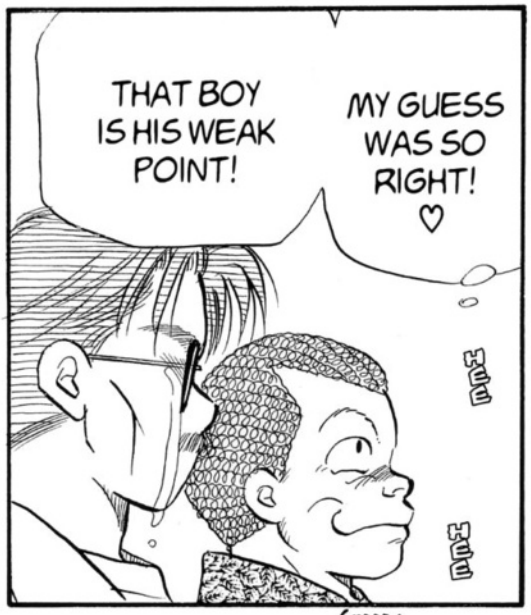

...BUT NOW HE'LL HAVE TO WRESTLE WITHOUT ANY SUPPORT!
MR. MUKAI SHOULDN'T BE PROUD OF BETTING...
ARE YOU KIDDING?
IT'S NOT LIKE IT REALLY MATTERS.
Right?

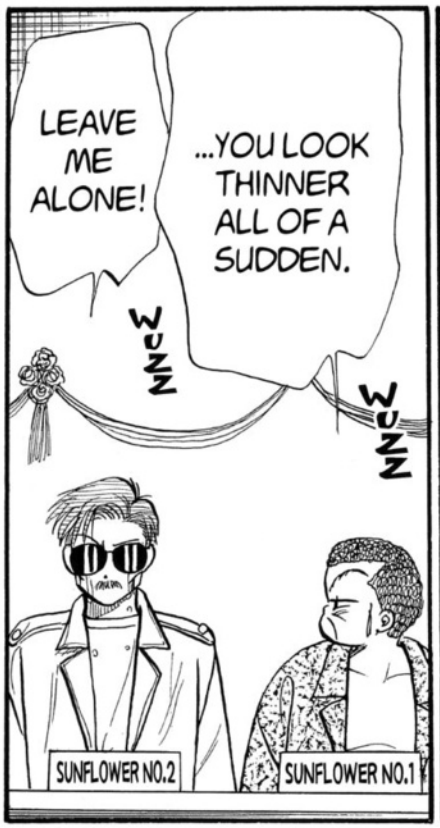

YES?
MS. KOBAYASHI!
WE WERE WRONG!

YEAH...
BUT WILL OUR CHEERS BE SINCERE?
WRESTLING WITHOUT SUPPORT... THAT SOUNDS SO SAD.

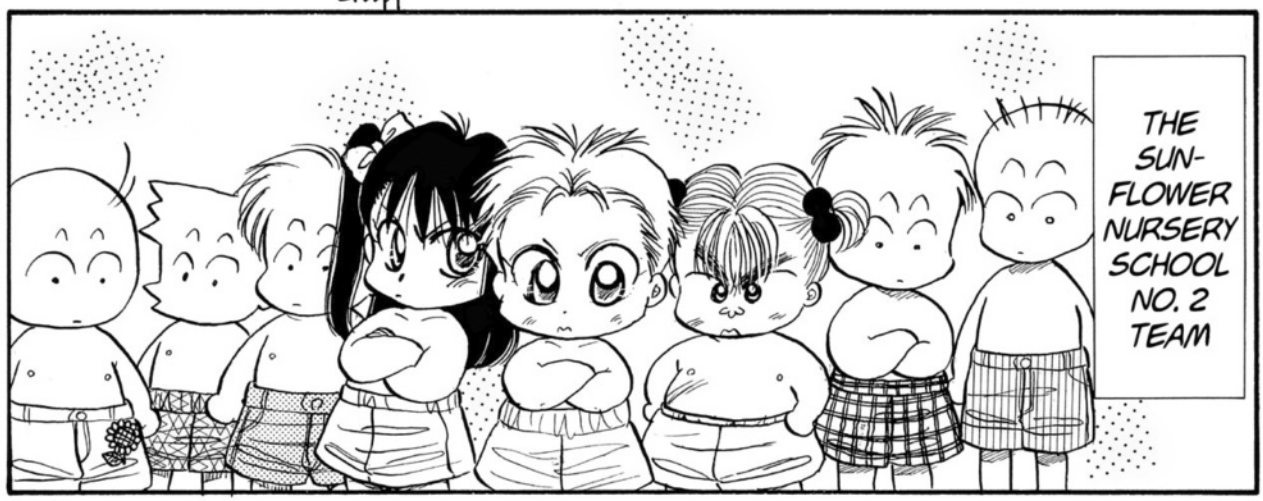

FICKLE MINXES ...
HOORAY!
WE'LL ROOT FOR MR. MUKAI WITH ALL OUR HEARTS!!

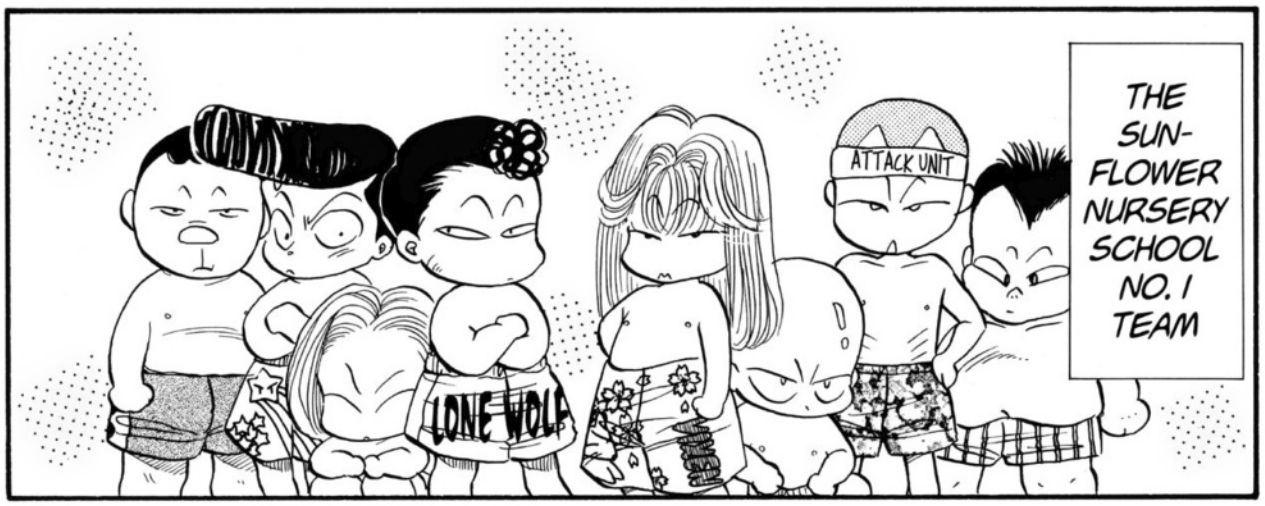

SMIRK
HEH.

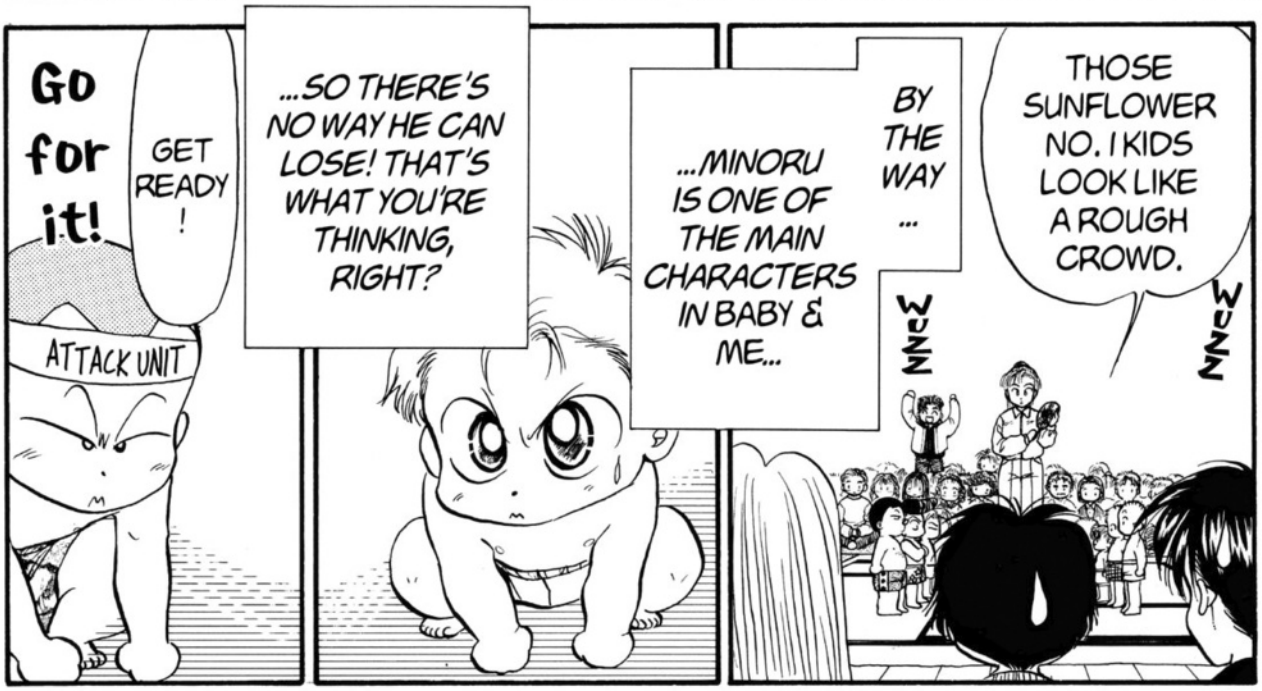

THAT BOY IS HIS WEAK POINT!
MY GUESS WAS SO RIGHT! ♡
Creepy

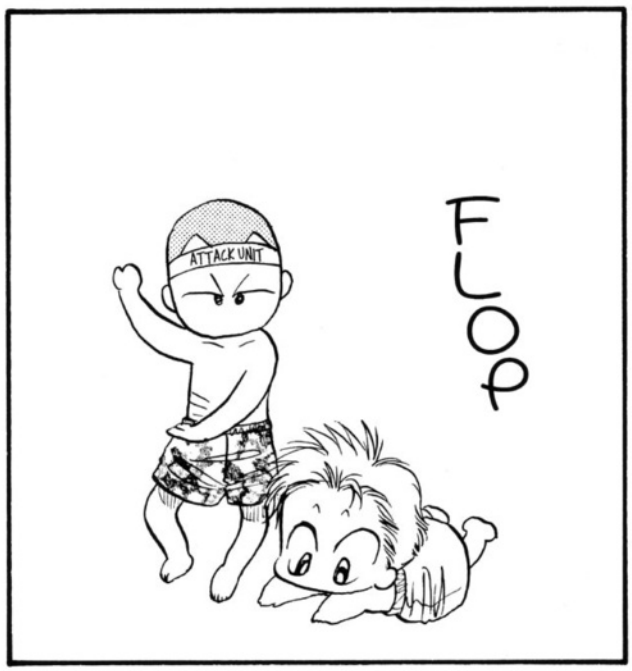

LEAVE ME ALONE!
...YOU LOOK THINNER ALL OF A SUDDEN.
WUNN
WUNN
SUNFLOWER NO.2
SUNFLOWER NO.1

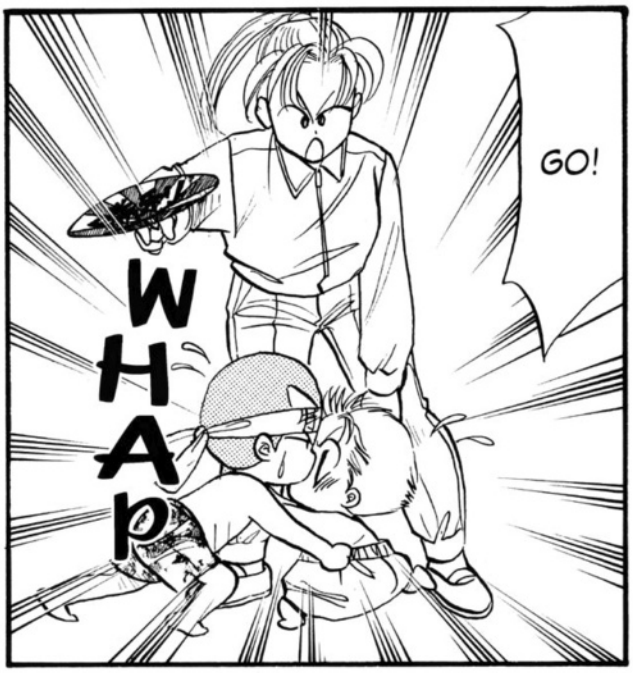
YOJI...

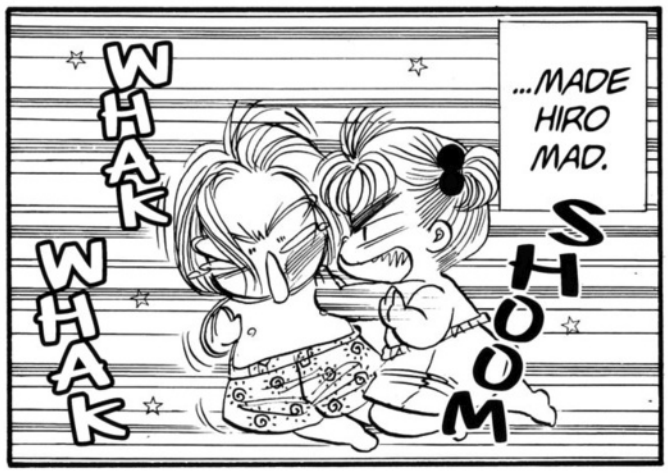

THE SUN-FLOWER NURSERY SCHOOL NO. 2 TEAM


THE SUN-FLOWER NURSERY SCHOOL NO. 1 TEAM
ATTACK UNIT
LONE WOLF

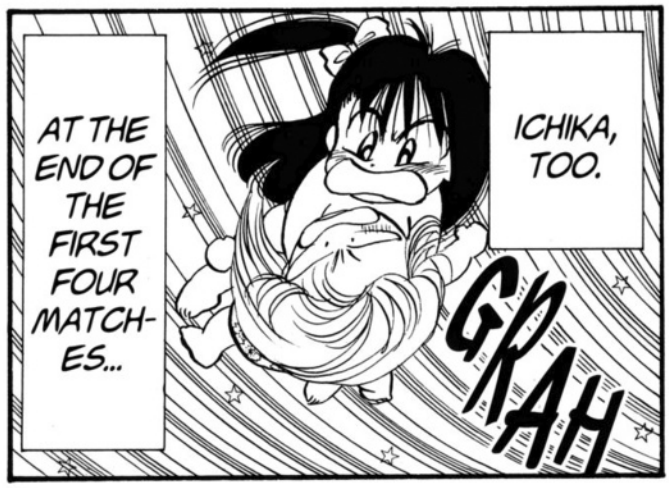

Go for it!
GET READY!
ATTACK UNIT
...SO THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN LOSE! THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, RIGHT?
...MINORU IS ONE OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN BABY & ME...
BY THE WAY...
THOSE SUNFLOWER NO. 1 KIDS LOOK LIKE A ROUGH CROWD.
WUNN
WUNN


ATTACK UNIT
FLOP

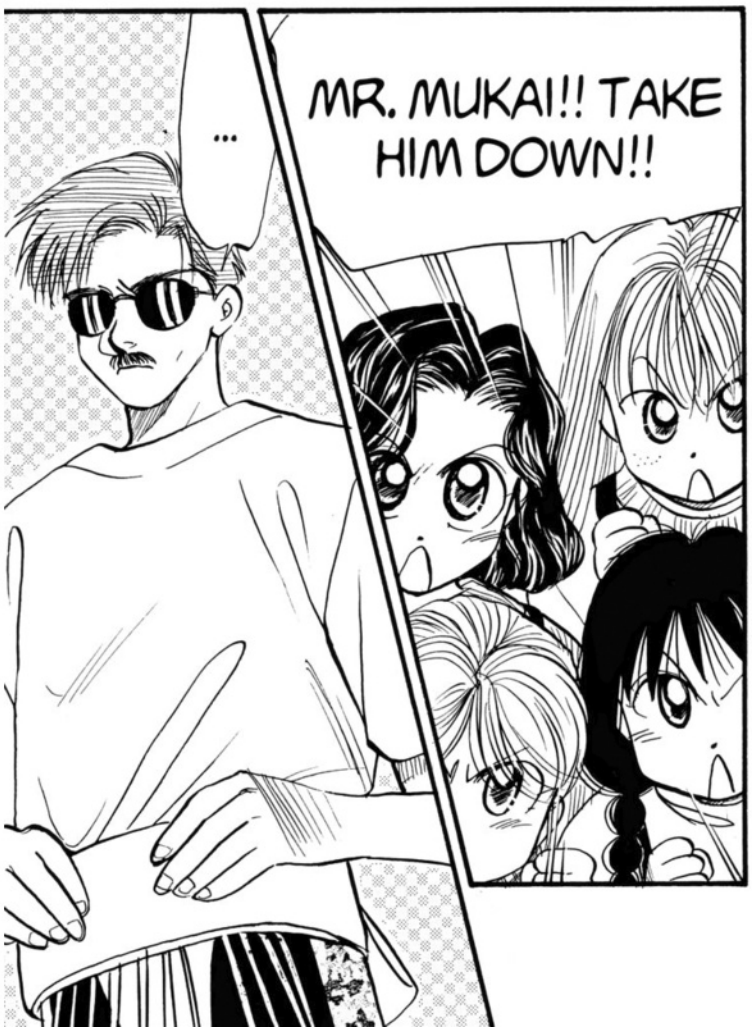

GO!
WHAP

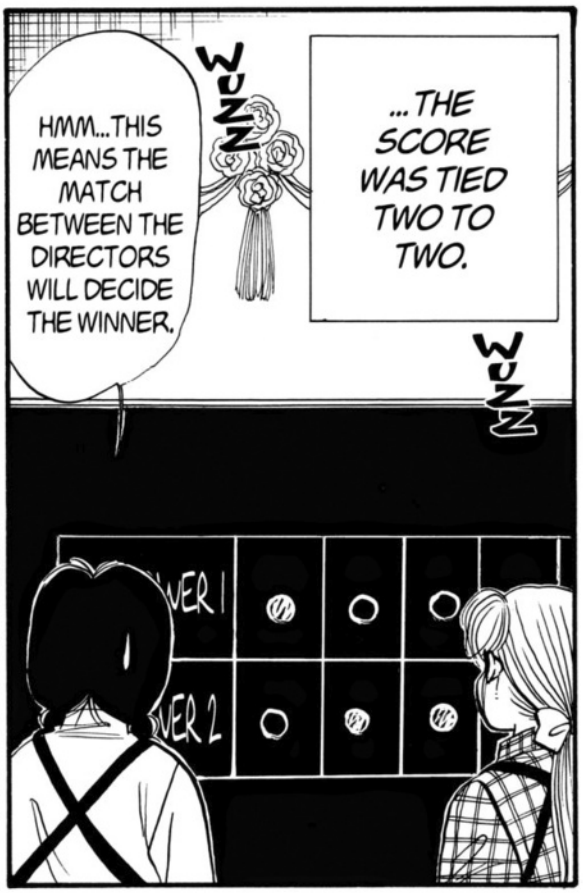

...MADE HIRO MAD.
WHAK
WHAK
SHOOM

OYAMA FROM SUN-FLOWER NO. 2 WINS!
...
AS IT TURNED OUT, HE REALLY WAS WEAK.

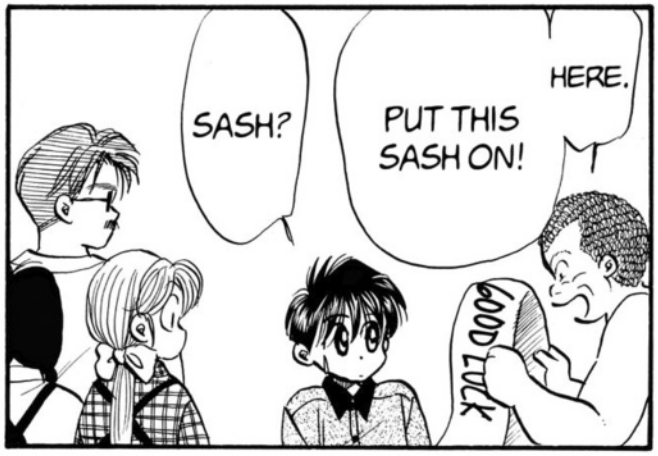

AT THE END OF THE FIRST FOUR MATCH-ES...
ICHIKA, TOO.
GRAH

...SEEING MINORU LOSE...
BUT...


...
MR. MUKAI!! TAKE HIM DOWN!!


HMM...THIS MEANS THE MATCH BETWEEN THE DIRECTORS WILL DECIDE THE WINNER.
WUNN
...THE SCORE WAS TIED TWO TO TWO.
WUNN

Heh...


SASH?
PUT THIS SASH ON!
HERE.
GOOD LUCK

IF ONLY I COULD.
?

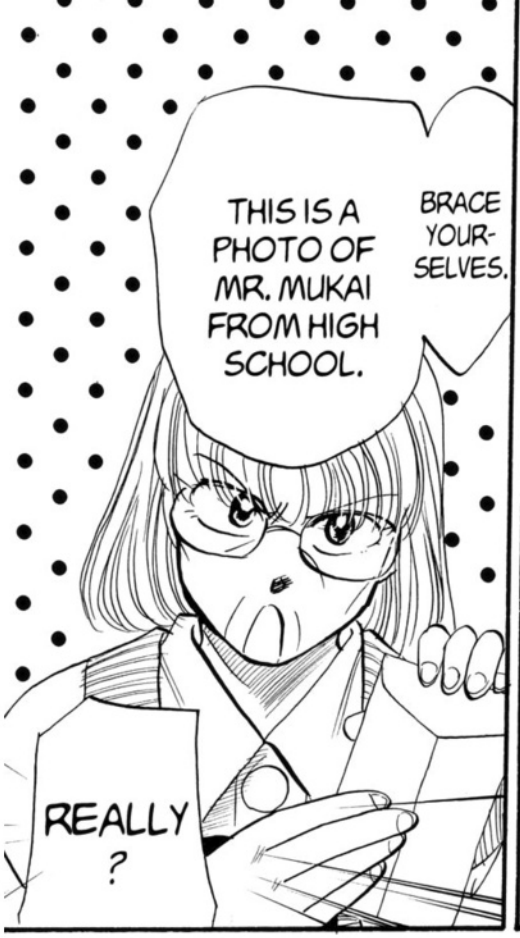
WHAT?

IT LOOKS GREAT ON YOU!
DO I HAVE TO?
GOOD LUCK, DIRECTOR

IT'S OKAY IF TAKUYA ROOTS FOR MY BROTHER.
NOW, NOW... LET'S CALM DOWN.

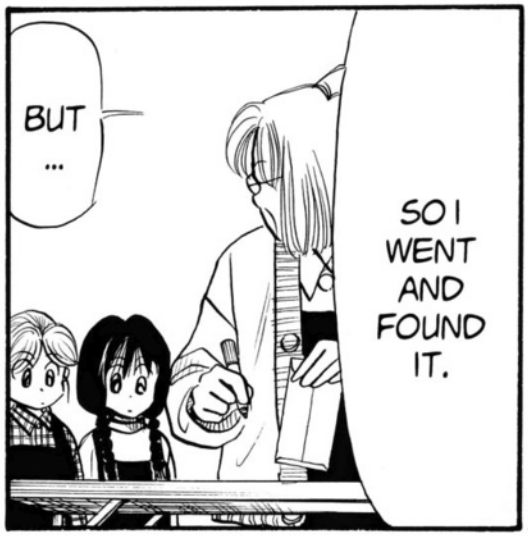
COMPLI-CATED?
IT'S COMPLI-CATED.
UM...
WHY WOULD YOU ROOT FOR THE ENEMY, TAKUYA?
GOOD LUCK, DIRECTOR NO.

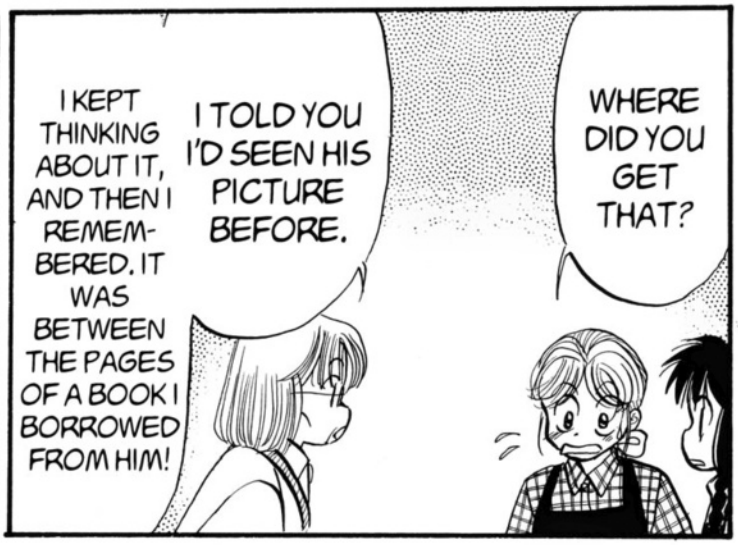
I'M FINE WITH IT!
NO PROB-LEM.
MR. MUKAI?
WA HA HA HA HA

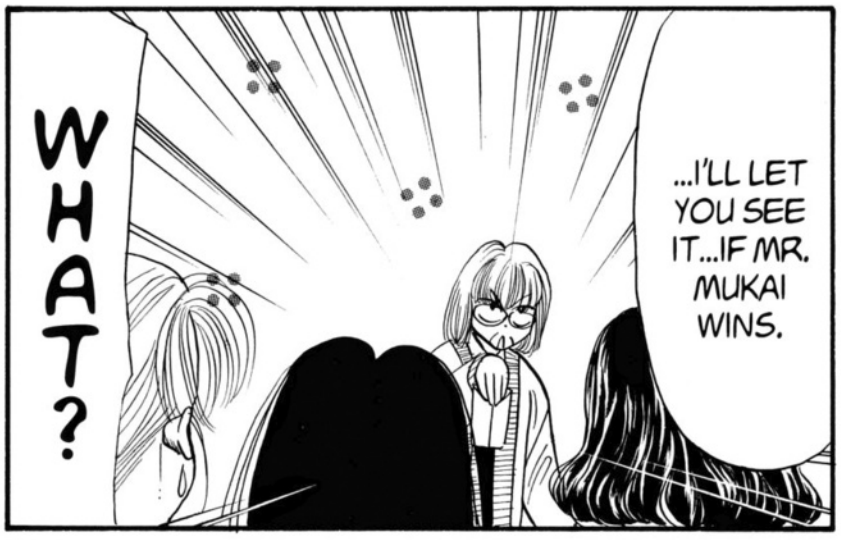

THIS IS A PHOTO OF MR. MUKAI FROM HIGH SCHOOL.
BRACE YOUR-SELVES.
REALLY ?

GOOD. I FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR.
OH!
THERE YOU ARE.
WHAT'S THAT, MS. KOBA-YASHI?

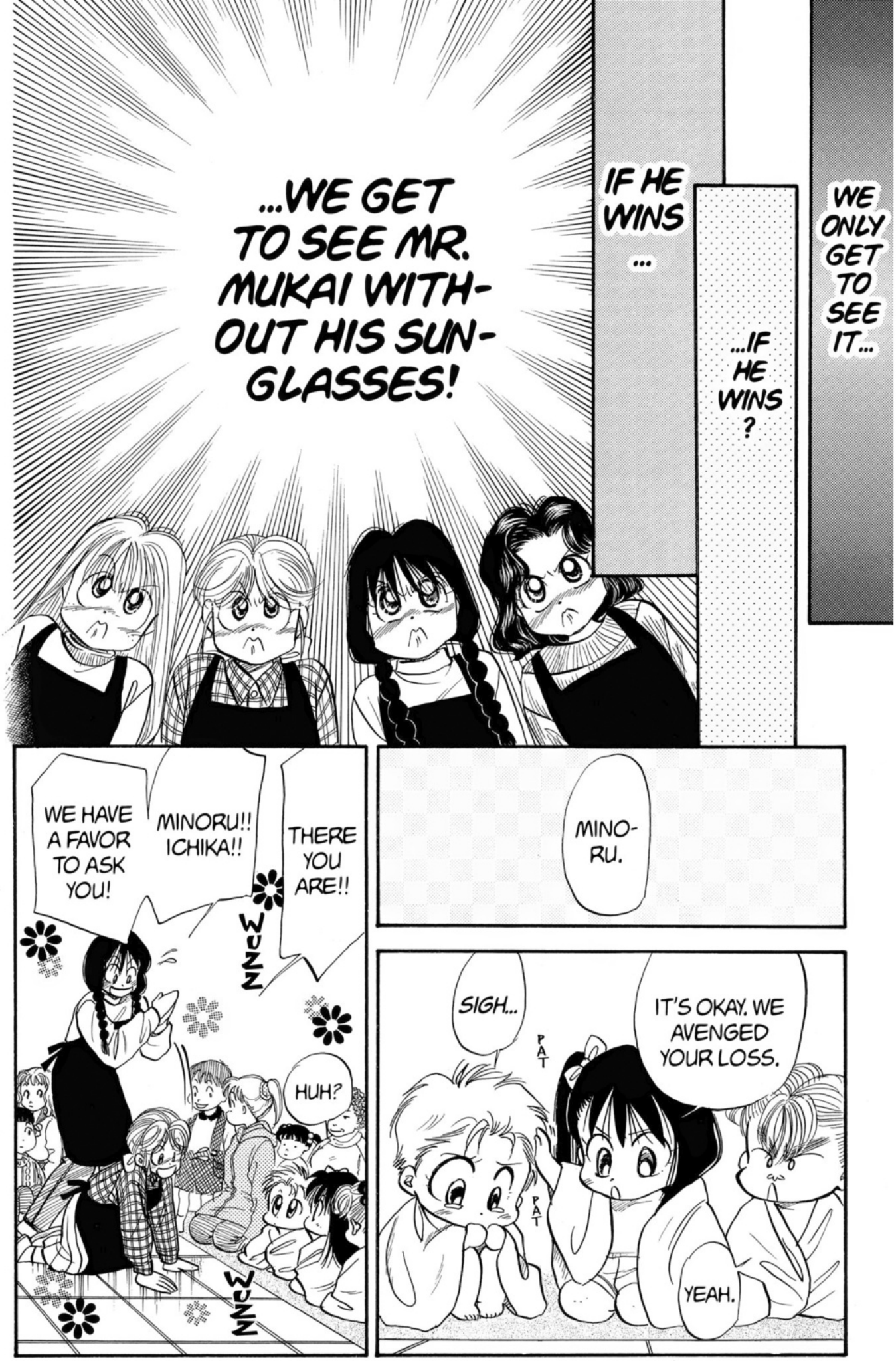
SIGH ...
...

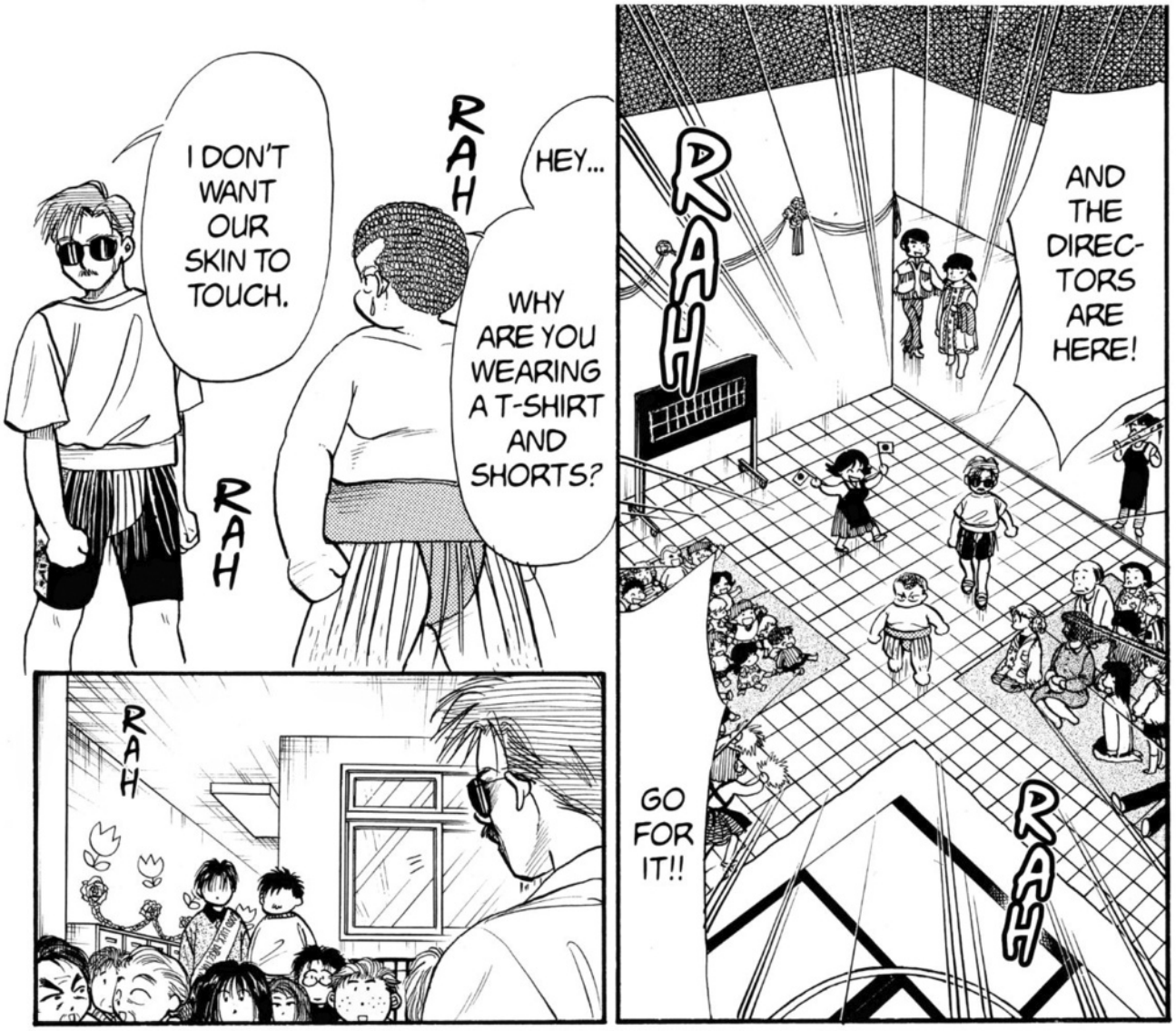

BUT ...
SO I WENT AND FOUND IT.

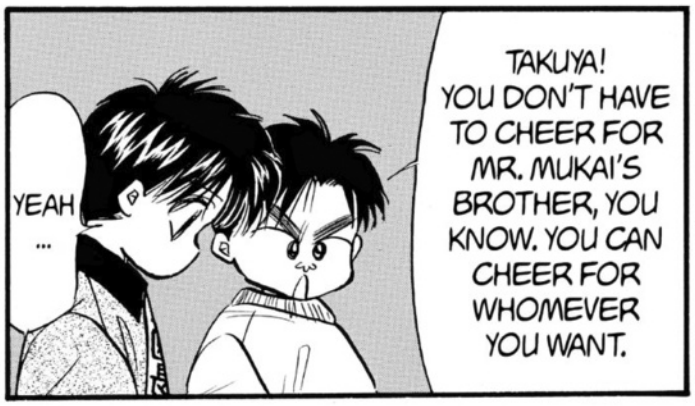

I KEPT THINKING ABOUT IT, AND THEN I REMEM-BERED. IT WAS BETWEEN THE PAGES OF A BOOK I BORROWED FROM HIM!
I TOLD YOU I'D SEEN HIS PICTURE BEFORE.
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?

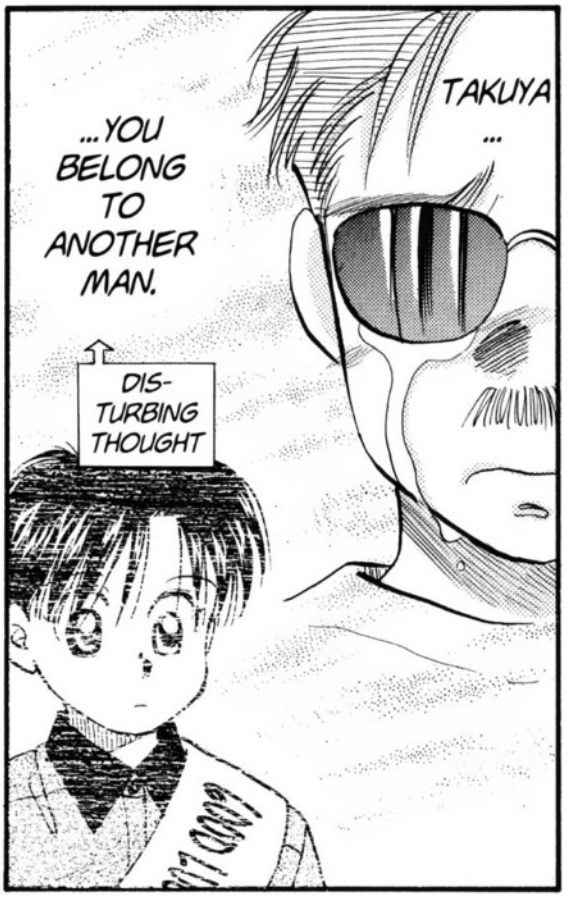

WHAT?
...I'LL LET YOU SEE IT...IF MR. MUKAI WINS.

SKWIK
SKWIK
CON-GRATU-LATIONS, MR. MUKAI!
SKWIK

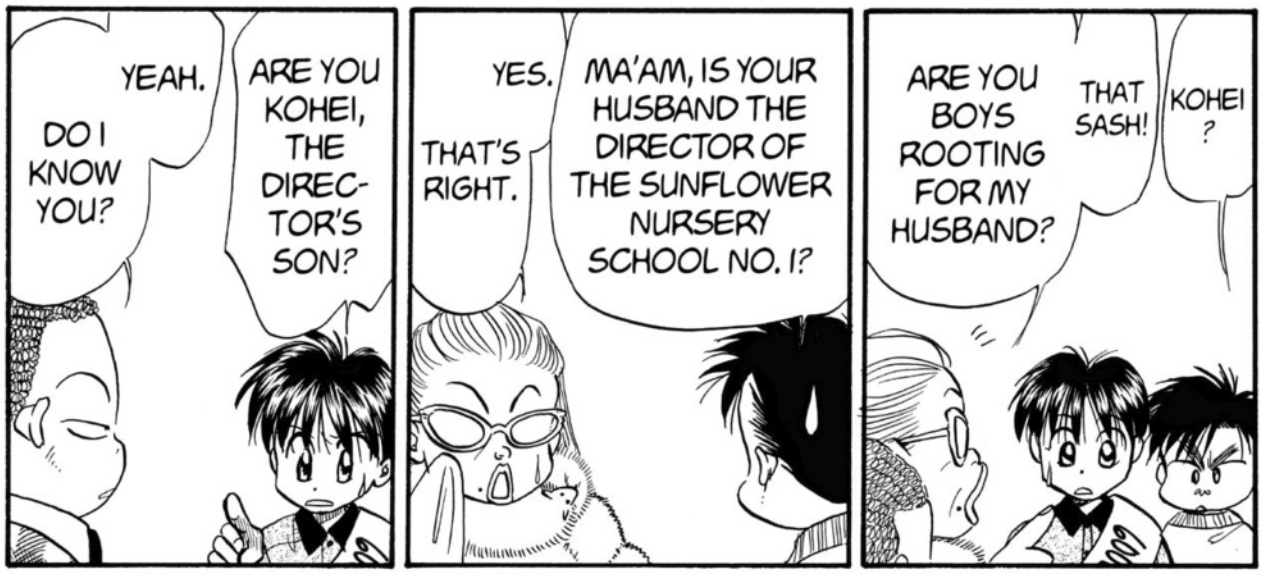

...WE GET TO SEE MR. MUKAI WITHOUT HIS SUNGLASSES!
IF HE WINS ...
...IF HE WINS ?
WE ONLY GET TO SEE IT...
WE HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU!
MINORU!! ICHIKA!!
THERE YOU ARE!!
WUZZ
HUH?
WUZZ
MINO-RU.
SIGH...
PAT
PAT
IT'S OKAY. WE AVENGED YOUR LOSS.
YEAH.


I DON'T WANT OUR SKIN TO TOUCH.
RAH
RAH
HEY...
WHY ARE YOU WEARING A T-SHIRT AND SHORTS?
RAH
RAH
AND THE DIRECTORS ARE HERE!
GO FOR IT!!
RAH

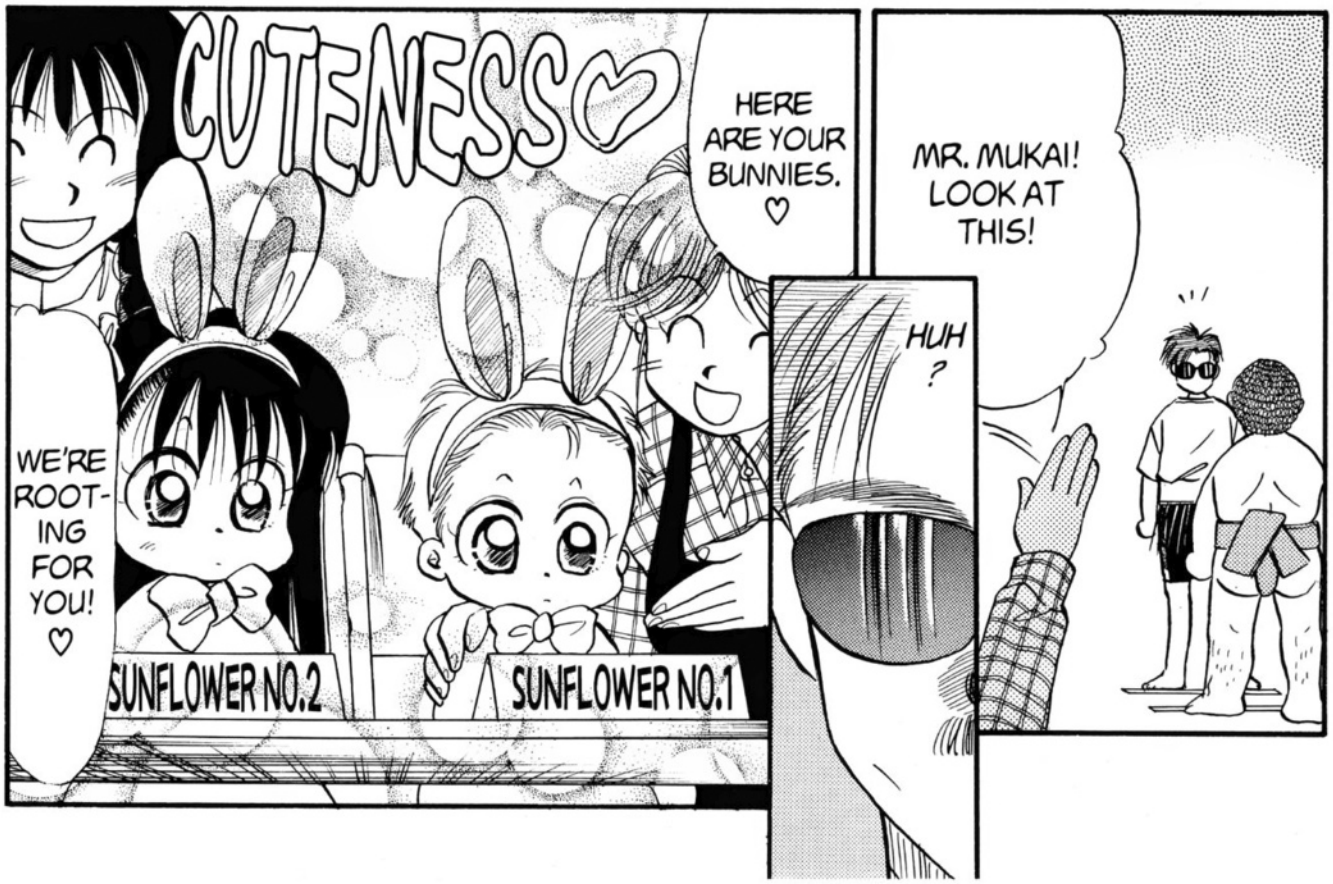

YEAH ...
TAKUYA! YOU DON'T HAVE TO CHEER FOR MR. MUKAI'S BROTHER, YOU KNOW. YOU CAN CHEER FOR WHOMEVER YOU WANT.


TAKUYA ...
...YOU BELONG TO ANOTHER MAN.
DISTURBING THOUGHT

YOU ALMOST MADE US LATE, KOHEI!
WHEW! THANK GOODNESS WE MADE IT!
I'M SORRY, MOM!

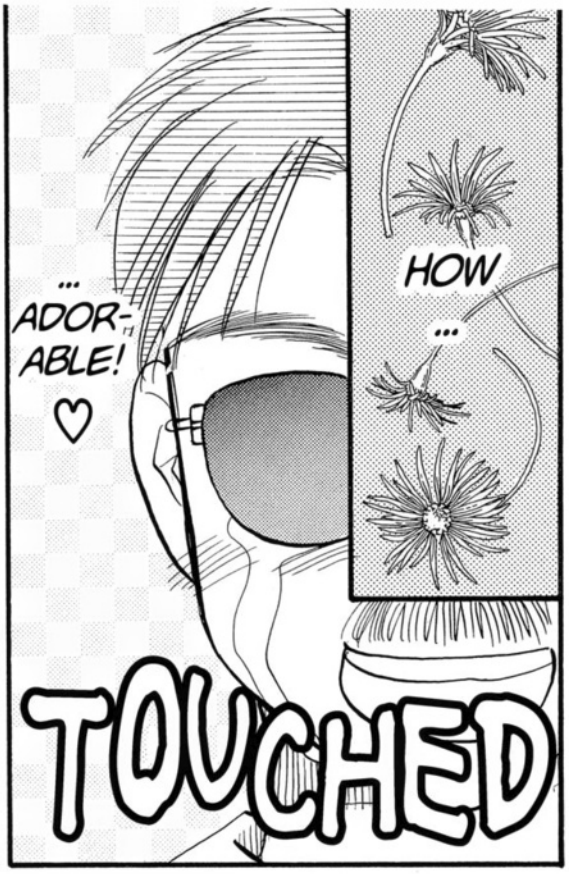

DO I KNOW YOU?
YEAH.
ARE YOU KOHEI, THE DIRECTOR'S SON?
THAT'S RIGHT.
YES.
MA'AM, IS YOUR HUSBAND THE DIRECTOR OF THE SUNFLOWER NURSERY SCHOOL NO. 1?
ARE YOU BOYS ROOTING FOR MY HUSBAND?
THAT SASH!
KOHEI ?

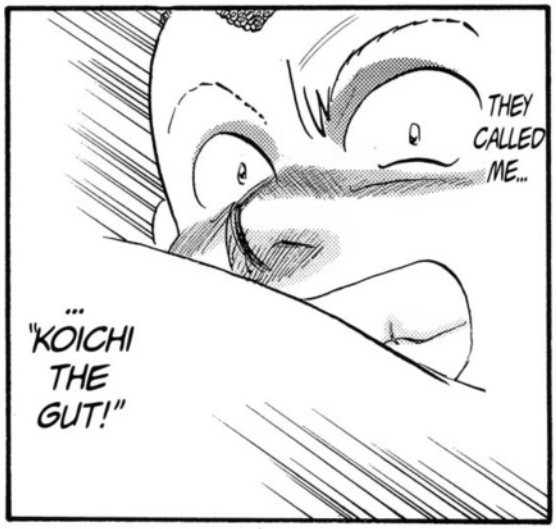
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT ?
OH!
C'MON, GON.
TMPTMP
HUH?
FWAP
HERE.
...


CUTENESS♡
HERE ARE YOUR BUNNIES. ♡
WE'RE ROOTING FOR YOU! ♡
SUNFLOWER NO.2
SUNFLOWER NO.1
HUH ?
MR. MUKAI! LOOK AT THIS!

READY!

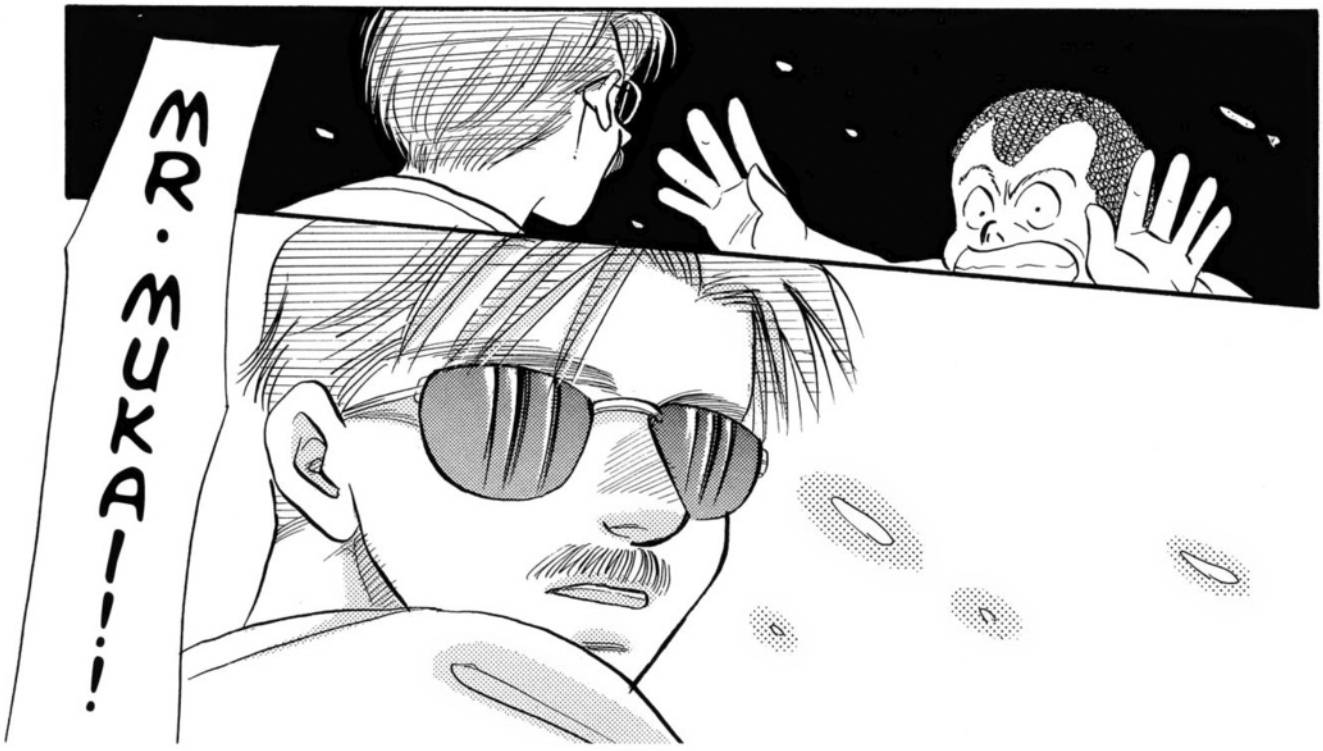
HOW PATHETIC.
BUT THE BOY IS HIS ACHILLES' HEEL, AND HE'S ON MY SIDE.


HOW ...
... ADOR-ABLE! ♡
TOUCHED


THEY CALLED ME...
... "KOICHI THE GUT!"

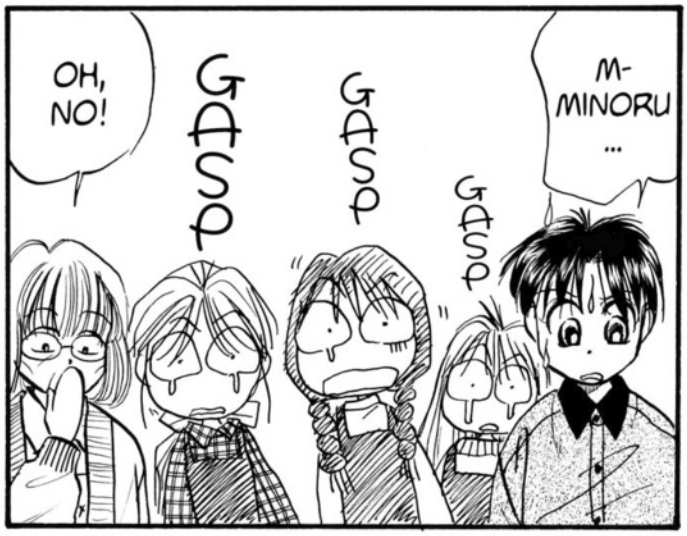
VICTORY
GO!!

I'VE BEEN ...
...A GOOD SUMO WRES-TLER SINCE I WAS A KID.


MR. MUKAI!!!

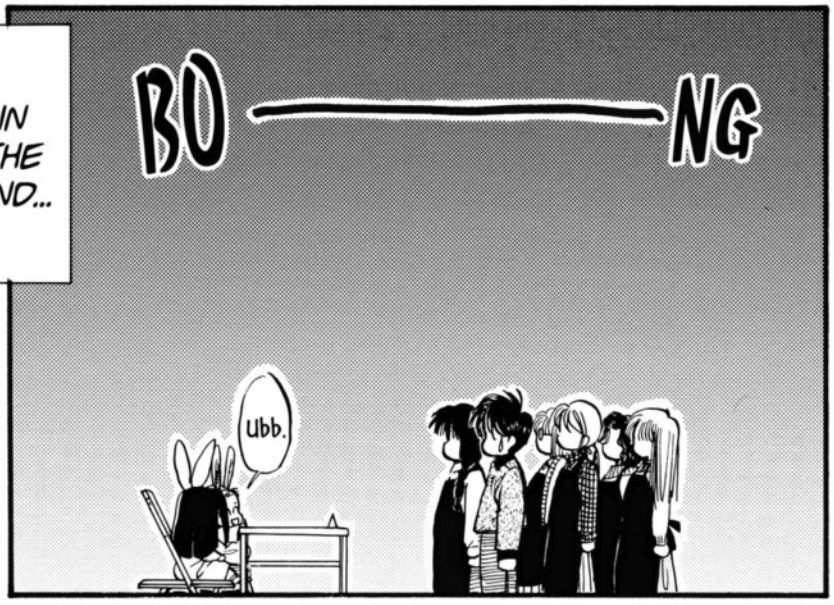
WAP
TAKU-YA! ♡
T... T...
WIN !!
HOOM
WHAT'S THAT?
HUH ?
DAZED

UH?
HURRAY !!
WE CAN SEE MR. MUKAI'S PIC-TURE!
RAAH
HE DID IT!
Huh?
HE...
MR. MUKAI OF SUN-FLOWER NO. 2 WINS!


OH, NO!
GASP
GASP
GASP
M-MINORU ...

MARKET

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
WHY DID YOU COME? I LOST BECAUSE OF YOU!
...NOBODY GOT TO SEE MR. MUKAI'S BARE FACE.


IN THE END...
BO——NG
Ubb.

Chapter 62 / The End

BABY & ME

Creator: Marimo Ragawa

SBM Title: *Baby & Me*

Date of Birth: September 21

Blood Type: B

Major Works: *Time Limit*, *Baby & Me*, *N.Y. N.Y.*, and *Shanimuni-Go* (Desperately—Go)

Marimo Ragawa first started submitting manga to a comic magazine when she was 12 years old. She kept up her submissions for four years, but to no avail. She decided to submit her work to the magazine *Hana to Yume,* where she received Top Prize in the Monthly Manga Contest as well as an honorable mention (Kasaku) in the magazine's Big Challenge contest. Her first manga was titled *Time Limit*. *Baby & Me* was honored with a Shogakukan Manga Award in 1995 and was spun off into an anime.

Ragawa's work showcases some very cute and expressive line work along with an incredible ability to depict complex emotions and relationships. Some of her other works include *N.Y. N.Y.* and the tennis manga *Shanimuni-Go.*

Ragawa has two brothers and two sisters.

BABY & ME, Vol. 11
The Shojo Beat Manga Edition

Story & Art by
MARIMO RAGAWA

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Translation/JN Productions
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Vanessa Satone
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Publisher/Hyoe Narita

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